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SUID-AFRIKAANSE BIBLIOTEEKVERENIGING
Geredigeer vanuit die Suid-Afrikaanse Biblioteek, Kaapstad

Deel 22

Julie 1954

No. 1

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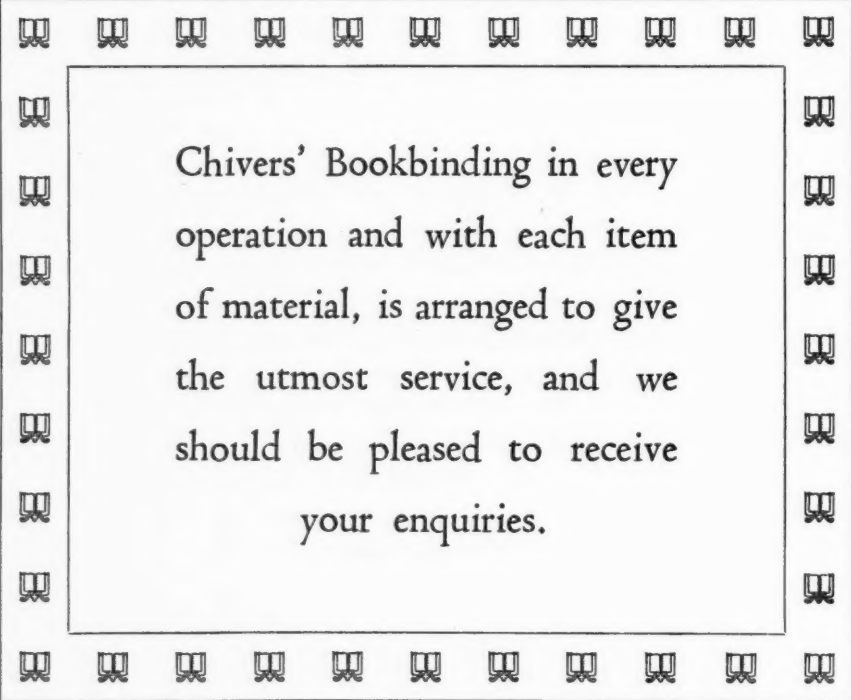
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SUID-AFRIKAANSE BIBLIOTEKE

Die Offisiële Orgaan van die Suid-Afrikaanse Biblioteekvereniging

Deel 22

Julie 1954

No. 1

VAN DIE REDAKSIE

MET genoeg vestig ons die aandag van ons lesers op die bedrywighede van die Johannesburgse Aksiekomitee, wat 'n ernstige oproep aan die algemene publiek gemaak het om die slegte Afrikaanse boek en tydskrif te weer en die goeie te bevorder.

Onder ander wenke vir verenigings, instellings en individue wat positiewe stappe wil doen om 'n hoër gehalte van waardering en smaak onder Afrikaanse lesers te ontwikkel, is die volgende opmerkenswaardig:

1. Vir Kersgeskenke moet alleen boeke van ons erkende skrywers as geskenke gekoop word.
2. Boeke van 'n sekere soort skrywer wat ons teen hierdie tyd maar te goed ken, hoort nie in biblioteke, veral in skool-biblioteke tuis nie. Ons wil nie die karakters help afbreek wat die onderwyser met moeite opbou nie.
3. 'n Uitstalling van boeke vir volwassenes sou eweneens uitstekende werk doen.
4. Om lesings oor die waarde en betekenis van die goeie boek en tydskrif te laat hou, en om mense te leer onderskei tussen wat letterkundig waardevol is en wat net minderwaardige prulle is.
5. Die positiewe is op die lange duur altyd sterker as die ondermynende en sensasionele. Pulle wat deur reklame as „meesterstukke” opgehemel word, kan die publiek nie lank mislei nie. Wanneer die nodige smaak aangekweek is, sal die minderwaardige geen afset meer kry nie en 'n natuurlike dood sterwe.

As bibliotekaris wat daeliks besig is met probleme van boekekeur en literêre smaak verwelkom ons van harte die opbouende voorstelle wat die Aksiekomitee in medewerking met die F. A. K. gemaak het. Meer besonderhede daaroor kan verkry word van die Sekretaris, mnr. Hennie Roux, Posbus 9898, Johannesburg, of van die Voorsitter, prof. dr. C. M. van den Heever, van die Universiteit van die Witwatersrand.

In 'n belangwekkende kort artikel wat so pas verskyn het* beskrywe dr. P. C. Coetzee 'n paar kenmerke van die boekery van wyle generaal Hertzog wat in die studiekamer van sy plaas Waterval, distrik Bronkhorstspuit, Transvaal, nog bewaar word. O. a. merk die skrywer op dat generaal Hertzog 'n sorgvuldige leser was, „wat met 'n potlood in die hand gelees het; 'n verbasende groot aantal van die werke dra die tekens dat hulle noukeurig en krities deurgewerk is”. Onder baie historiese werke kom eksemplare van Spengler se *Untergang des Abendlandes* voor: „hoewel Spengler se kultuur-beskouing as geheel geneem, fatalisties is, was die implikasies daarvan van 'n jong volk aan die begin van sy

* Coetzee, P. C. Generaal Hertzog se boekery (*Hertzog-annale van die S.-A. Akademie vir Wetenskap en Kuns*, 2de jaargang, 3de afl., bls. 1-4, Maart 1954).

jeugperiode (en so het generaal Hertzog die Afrikanervolk gesien) buitengewoon hoopvol". Ook het die generaal verskeie werke oor relativiteit en atomistiek deeglik bestudeer. In sy opsomming kom dr. Coetzee tot die gevolgtrekking dat dit die biblioteek van 'n intellektuele mens is, „maar van een wat wesenlik ook mens van daad is”.

* * *

In response to requests from readers overseas who do not readily understand Afrikaans, we propose as an experiment to follow current practice in scientific journals, and to provide a short summary in English of some of our more important articles contributed in Afrikaans. The first of these synopses appears at the end of Professor de Vleeschauwer's *Prolegomena tot 'n biblioteek-geskiedenis*, which we are printing in the current number.

BOOK REVIEW

Freer, Percy. Bibliography and modern book production: notes and sources ... assembled by P. Freer and elaborated and indexed by V. Berg-Sonne. Johannesburg, Witwatersrand University Press, 1954. xiv, 345 p. 20s.

Of all Mr. Freer's contributions to librarianship, and they are many, this long-awaited note - and source-book may prove to be the most lasting to the greatest number of his colleagues. Those who have used and worked with his correspondence-courses in Bibliography will know what to expect: a high standard of accuracy arising from that all-too-rare attribute a professional conscience; endless enthusiasm for his subject; and not least, the ability to start his reader searching for further knowledge on his own.

In a prefatory note Mr. Freer is at pains to point out that this is not a text-book, and does not replace existing text-books on his subject. It is rather a series of notes garnered during a lifetime of working and teaching, arranged in orderly form, with connecting chapters of an outline character. Nevertheless this does not adequately describe what is in effect an extremely practical working tool for "student librarians, printers, booksellers, stationers and book-collectors", to quote his own sub-title.

The work is arranged in two main parts. The first deals with systematic bibliography: definitions, a long and handy list of references to the relevant literature (850 items); primary and secondary bibliographical sources; and chapters on compilation and arrange-

ment, and on collation and description. The second part is concerned with Modern Book Production, covering paper, printing, illustration, facsimile and near-print (a particularly useful chapter with many references to examples), bookbinding and modern fine printing. A chapter on practical authorship is possibly the best in the book, written as it is from hard-won experience as Hon. Editor of *South African Libraries* and as Secretary to the Witwatersrand University press.

The book concludes with some questions selected from British and South African library examination papers, and there is a detailed and useful name-index compiled by Mrs. V. Berg-Sonne of the Witwatersrand University Library. Like the *Catalogue of Union Periodicals* this work has been printed by the Replika process, on the assumption, no doubt, that it would have been uneconomic to produce a work of 345 pages in letterpress for what was judged to be a specialized public. We venture to predict, however, that this work will reach a wide and appreciative audience. It is full of practical and up-to-the-minute information (which it is hoped that Mr. Freer will contrive to supplement every now and again); it has a universal, and not merely local appeal; and most important of all, it really does fulfil its stated purpose: to fill a gap that no-one else has thought of filling. There is no other work of this character available, and it deserves a widespread and continuing success.

D. H. V.

INDEX TO SOUTH AFRICAN PERIODICALS

We have been asked to make it clear (cp. *S. A. L.* 21 (4), p. 120, April 1954) that the indexing of current South African periodicals has been undertaken by the Johannesburg Public Library since 1945, and that no grant-in-aid has been received to assist with indexing costs of the annual volumes.

THE LIBRARY OF PARLIAMENT, 1854 - 1954

by TIELMAN ROOS

Librarian of Parliament

TO MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT their library is a sanctuary. To its seclusion they repair for mental pabulum as well as for recreational reading, knowing that once within its walls they are beyond the reach of visitors and are able to settle down to their reading without interruption.

At any time of the day or evening while Parliament is in session Members may be observed browsing amongst the shelves or working at their tables, surrounded by stacks of books. The library houses approximately 100,000 books and almost as many issues of serials, but it has taken 100 years to accumulate this total.

The story of the Library of Parliament falls into two distinct periods. The first begins with the establishment of Representative Government in 1854 when the Legislative Council and the Legislative Assembly occupied different buildings and each House had its own library. The Legislative Council met in the Old Supreme Court Buildings situated half-way up Grave Street (the present Parliament Street), while the first home of the Legislative Assembly was the Banqueting Hall of the old Goede Hoop Lodge at the southern extremity of the same street. The second part of the story begins in 1885 with both Houses of Parliament sitting under the same roof and sharing a joint library.

Legislative Council Library, 1854-1884

An early beginning was made by Members of the Legislative Council towards the establishment of their library when, on the 10th July 1854, Mr. Godlonton moved the appointment of a Select Committee to consider the matter. Two months later the Committee reported that no progress had been made, principally because no suitable room was available. They had hoped to appropriate one of the rooms occupied by the judges of the Supreme Court and had accordingly approached

the Chief Justice, Sir John Wylde, but he was a difficult man to negotiate with and firmly declined to vacate the room in favour of the Council. The Committee thereupon suggested that an address be presented to the Lieutenant-Governor, Mr. (afterwards Sir Charles) Darling, respectfully requesting his assistance. The Committee further reported that a sum of £100 towards the library had been placed on the supplementary estimates and suggested that this sum be applied under the direction of the Secretary to Government, Mr. R. W. Rawson, who had kindly tendered his advice and signified his willingness to obtain such books as might be useful to the Council.

Despite the assurance of the Lieutenant-Governor that the Government would direct its attention towards providing suitable accommodation for the library, negotiations ended in a deadlock and it was only after the retirement of Sir John Wylde that the Committee could report in 1857 that possession had at last been taken of the room occupied by the judges and "that there would be no objection to the Chief Justice or judges having the use of the room during the prorogation or recess, providing due care was taken for the safe custody of the books during such occupation". This report was formally adopted by the Council of 27th April, 1857.

A select list of 33 books had in the meantime been prepared, the books being ordered from England during the same year. It is interesting to note that in addition to books on parliamentary procedure and constitutional law and history, such standard works as Hallam's *Middle Ages*, Hume's *History of England*, Macaulay's *Essays* and his *History of England*, Gibbon's *Decline and Fall*, and representative histories of Scotland, Ireland, France, America, China and Russia were included to form the nucleus of the Council's library. As yet there was no librarian, but in 1859 Mr. J. Carroll, the Chamber Keeper and Messenger, was placed in charge of the books. He died in the following

year and for the next few years the post remained vacant. It appears, however, that the Clerk of the Legislative Council, Mr. J. A. Fairbairn, kept a watchful eye over the library, for in 1864 he is officially designated Clerk of the Council and Officer-in-Charge of Books, the latter appointment being made retrospective as from 12 October 1861. From this date until 1885, when the Legislative Council moved to the new Houses of Parliament, Mr. Fairbairn took charge of the Council's library.

House of Assembly Library, 1854-1884

The earliest reference to the establishment of the Legislative Assembly library – indirect though it may be – is recorded in the Votes and Proceedings of the House of Assembly of the 1st July 1854, the day of the opening of the first session of the first Cape Parliament, when a petition was received from a Major Longmore, applying for the appointment of Serjeant-at-Arms and Librarian. This application seems to have been somewhat premature for no library existed at that time and almost three years were to pass before the House of Assembly was to have its library. The nucleus of a library was, however, taking shape. On the 11th July 1854, Mr. Saul Solomon, who possessed a considerable private library of his own, moved the appointment of a Select Committee to consider and report on the establishment of a library. A fortnight later the Committee tabled their report in which they recommended that there should be a joint library for the use of Members of both Houses; in addition they suggested that the House of Assembly should acquire a certain number of standard works of reference for its Members. Towards the formation of this separate library for the House of Assembly the Committee recommended that a sum of £100 should be voted. No progress was made in respect of a joint library, however, and thirty years were to pass before the ideal was realized.

Mr. Speaker had in the meantime been authorized to purchase books not exceeding in cost the sum of £100, and early in the 1857 session laid upon the Table a catalogue of 57 books which he had obtained from England. Apart from Barrington's *Personal Sketches*, Cruise *On the Origin of Dignities*, and Hallam's *History of England*, the books purchased were

of a technical nature dealing primarily with law, parliamentary procedure and constitutional matters.

The next step was the appointment of a librarian and Major Longmore, who had been successful in his candidature for the post of Serjeant-at-Arms, was appointed Librarian in 1857 with an increase in salary of £50 per year. By profession Major Longmore was a soldier but in 1834 had bought his discharge and migrated to the Cape where he became Wynberg's first Resident Magistrate. His interests were literature and painting. Strange as it may seem none of his published works is to be found in the library which he once served. By a fortunate coincidence, however, three original water-colour sketches made by him were recently acquired.

Major Longmore was succeeded in 1868 by Mr. J. C. Koopmans, husband of the celebrated Marie Koopmans-de Wet. He too officiated in a dual capacity as Serjeant-at-Arms and Librarian. Like his predecessor, Mr. Koopmans had chosen a military career, and had come to the Cape as an officer in the German Legion.

After his death early in 1880 the posts of Serjeant-at-Arms and Librarian were separated, and Mr. H. C. V. Leibbrandt, in addition to being Keeper of the Colonial Archives, was appointed Librarian to the House of Assembly on a temporary basis as from 6th January 1881.

Library of Parliament, 1885-1954

On the completion of the new Houses of Parliament in 1885 the two libraries were merged. Members were justifiably proud of their new library with its massive Corinthian columns and imposing steps of granite leading up to the main hall, a lofty and spacious apartment rising to the full height of three stories. This part of the library has remained unchanged through the years and although many rooms have subsequently been added, its general appearance is the same to-day as it was in 1885.

Mr. Leibbrandt's appointment as Acting Librarian of what was now termed the Joint Library of Parliament was confirmed by both Houses of Parliament. To him fell the task of organizing the new library and of initiating a system of parliamentary exchanges whereby

documents of the Cape Parliament were sent to various countries in exchange for corresponding documents from them.

It was only on the 1st March 1901, when Dr. W. Flint, a former Wesleyan Methodist minister, was appointed Librarian, that Parliament acquired its first full-time Librarian.

Soon after his appointment Dr. Flint began to prepare a card index of subjects, devising a scheme of his own which, by the time of his retirement, had grown into huge proportions and contained some tens of thousands of references. Although old-fashioned by modern standards his catalogue is still sometimes consulted.

On Dr. Flint's suggestion the official title of the library was changed in 1904 to "Library of Parliament" by elimination of the word "Joint" on the grounds that the word often led to confusion among outsiders as to the nature of the library; moreover members preferred the shorter designation.

At the time of Union the first large-scale extension of the library took place when the dining room of the Old Cape House which adjoined the library was taken over by Dr. Flint to provide additional accommodation for the library's rapidly growing number of books. At present this room contains Parliament's very considerable law library and at the same time serves as a private writing room for members.

On the 1st November 1921, Mr. P. J. S. Ribbink, previously librarian to the Department of Agriculture, was appointed to the post vacated by Dr. Flint. His first major task was to unpack and shelve the Mendelssohn collection of books which had just arrived from London and with the exception of a number of pictures, was still in crates. This valuable collection of 7,031 volumes and 305 paintings and pictures, all dealing with Africa, was bequeathed to the Parliament of the Union of South Africa by Mr. Sidney Mendelssohn, a rich Kimberley diamond merchant. On retiring, Mr. Mendelssohn settled in London and

devoted the last years of his life to building up his Africana collection. This library was officially opened for the use of the public as well as members of Parliament by Mr. Speaker Krige on the 24th February 1922, in the presence of Mrs. Mendelssohn who came out to South Africa especially to attend the opening ceremony. Five years later, on Mr. Ribbink's suggestion, a collection of Africana totalling some 15,000 items was purchased from Major William Jardine.

To Mr. Ribbink fell the responsibility of housing these collections which he subsequently merged with Parliament's own Africana holding to form one of the largest Africana libraries in the country - the Mendelssohn Library of Africana. The necessary accommodation was obtained by acquiring certain rooms immediately below the main library. Up to the time of Union these rooms were occupied by the old Colonial Office and the Catering Department and it is interesting to reflect that part of the Mendelssohn Library is to-day housed in one of the rooms which was formerly used as a wine cellar by the Old Cape House.

Shortly after assuming office Mr. Ribbink commenced the huge task of reclassifying the entire library, including the Mendelssohn Library of Africana, according to the Dewey Decimal scheme - a task which took him fifteen years to complete.

Mr. Ribbink was succeeded in 1949 by the present Librarian who for many years had served under Mr. Ribbink as his first assistant.

The story of the first hundred years of the library's existence ends soon after the passing of the Copyright Amendment Act of 1951 which added the name of the Library of Parliament to South Africa's list of copyright libraries. Thanks to the efforts of its librarians and staff and the great interest shown by both Houses of Parliament, the library has grown since 1854 from some ninety books to the institution it is to-day, with its bookshelves filled with over a hundred thousand volumes.

THE LIBRARY OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SOUTHERN RHODESIA

by N. W. WILDING, A. L. A. and P. A. C. LAUNDY, A. L. A.

THE LIBRARY of Southern Rhodesia's Parliament has behind it a short but eventful history. Its growth and development, like that of the country itself, has been rapid and spectacular, and has mainly been concentrated into the past five years. Before the war the library was virtually non-existent. To-day it houses a stock of some 6,000 books in the lending section, a further 10,000 volumes of reference material, and an unspecified number of pamphlets and documents. The reference stock includes, apart from conventional reference books, bound volumes of Hansard, statutes, government gazettes and other official material. These items are included in the figure of 10,000. Although by average standards the library is a small one and will remain so for some time to come it is doubtful whether many libraries exist in which the book selection is so rigid. Book selection in this Library presents a special problem which is discussed further on.

Early history

The library commenced its career as a few shelves of essential textbooks such as Erskine May's *Parliamentary Practice* together with a sprinkling of the more obvious reference works. Most of the books which formed the nucleus from which the present Library developed were the tools of the parliamentary trade, books in constant use by the Speaker and the Clerks at the Table without which Parliament could not properly function. As further books came to be required and the small collection gradually expanded, the need for a proper library and a full-time Librarian became apparent. When in 1936 the upper floor of the parliamentary building ceased to be used for government offices, one of the rooms thus vacated was given over to the needs of a Library and the first Librarian of Parliament was appointed. Unfortunately this officer

lacked professional experience and the limited funds available for books were not utilized to the best advantage. Thus the progress of the library towards its main object, that of providing an efficient service for Members of Parliament, was not very noticeable. During the war conditions became even more unfavourable for the library. The annual grant was reduced to insignificant proportions and as a result of the enlistment of certain members of the staff the librarian was called upon to perform additional duties outside the library. It is only fair to point out that under the prevailing circumstances the most ingenious librarian would have been unable to make any headway.

After the war when the staff returned to full strength it was decided to concentrate on the improvement and expansion of the library. Misguided enthusiasm was no doubt responsible for a decision to spend a considerable amount of time and money on the compilation of a printed catalogue. Two members of the staff were detailed to undertake this work under the supervision of the Librarian, and copies of this *magnum opus* are still in evidence to-day to remind the present Librarian of the money which was squandered in a wasted effort at a time when the Library was in urgent need of additional funds for the strengthening of its resources. However the catalogue was duly compiled and, it must be admitted, achieved the unintentional purpose of revealing grotesque deficiencies of stock which unfortunately were previously unrecognized. During the course of compiling it the officials concerned discovered a large amount of pamphlet material, mainly official documents such as United Kingdom Command Papers, which had never been properly sorted or indexed. A considerable amount of such material had accumulated during the war years and had remained neglected owing to the staff shortage. To these officials is due the credit for creating some order out of the chaos which until that time had existed in the Library.

Reorganization of stock

By this time it had become apparent that the Library was in need of drastic reorganization. When the Librarian retired in 1949 it was decided to appoint a trained librarian to succeed him. In due course the Assistant Librarian of the House of Commons, who had had fifteen years' parliamentary experience and a further twelve years' experience in the London Library before that, was selected for the position and arrived to take up his duties during the early part of the year. The first things which were apparent to the new Librarian were the total inadequacy of the stock, the completely incorrect method of classification (it should be explained that some attempt had been made to classify the stock by Dewey), the absence of a reliable card catalogue, and the clumsy method of indexing pamphlet material. He immediately set to work to re-catalogue and re-classify the entire stock, at the same time rejecting all useless and redundant material, of which there was a large proportion. This was quite a formidable task to tackle single-handed, but as no extensive use of the Library on the part of either Members of Parliament or officials had been encouraged in the past he was able to apply himself to it during his first months without interruption. The indexing of the pamphlet material was incorporated into the catalogue, and amongst other early innovations the "Rhodesiana" was removed from the main classified sequence and formed into a local collection. At this time the most important section of the Library and indeed the only one to enjoy any regular use, that consisting of the books on parliamentary procedure and constitutional law, was not housed in the Library itself but in the office of the Clerk of the House. These books had never been catalogued and were probably not even regarded as a part of the Library's stock. To-day that section, now greatly expanded, resides in a place of prominence in the Library, and the Clerks at the Table have their own personal copies of all the books they regard as essential working tools.

Eventually the task of re-cataloguing and re-classifying was accomplished and the new Librarian turned to consider the problems of development and organization. The stock which remained after the thorough weeding-out process was rather pathetic, and it was

realized that increased funds were necessary if the library was to be noticeably improved. Much essential basic stock was lacking and it was equally important to fill the gaps and to keep up to date with current literature. It was obvious, too, that the Librarian would need the assistance of a trained colleague if he was to put into effect the ambitious development policy on which he hoped to embark. He accordingly recommended to the Library Committee that the library vote be substantially raised and that a trained Assistant Librarian be appointed. The Committee were quick to recognize the value of the work which had already been accomplished and were unanimous in their view that an efficient working library was a vital necessity to a legislature whose responsibilities were increasing at the same rapid pace as the country was expanding. Both recommendations were approved by the Committee and subsequently by Parliament. The library vote was raised to £500 per annum and an Assistant Librarian arrived early in 1950. Although a paltry enough sum, this £500 exceeded anything which had ever been bestowed on the library before. It represented a step in the right direction and indicated that Parliament was becoming library-conscious.

Policy developments

During the year which followed the Librarian pursued a policy of highly selective book buying, which excluded anything which was not absolutely essential. Many valuable contacts were established with the Parliaments and official departments of all Commonwealth and some foreign countries, with whom important exchange agreements were concluded. The material received under these agreements includes statutes, parliamentary debates and annexures, official year books, government gazettes and a variety of other official publications.

As the gradual improvement in the library became evident the Librarian embarked on a publicity campaign designed to encourage Members of Parliament and Government Departments to make use of its resources. Book lists were prepared and circulated, book jacket displays appeared in the Members' Lobby, and a quarterly Library Bulletin was launched. This bulletin contains notes on the

progress of the library, a feature article on a special aspect of the library's resources or activities, and reviews or annotated lists of the more important books recently acquired. It is a joint effort of the Librarian and Assistant Librarian, and owing to the varying pressure of work in and out of parliamentary sessions it has not been found possible to produce it with anything approaching clockwork regularity. Consequently although it is described as a quarterly bulletin its appearance at exact triennial intervals can never be guaranteed.

Borrowing privileges

In this same year, 1950, the Librarian recommended to the Committee that borrowing privileges be extended to civil servants under certain conditions. The Committee after much discussion of the matter agreed to adopt the Librarian's suggestion for the trial period of a year, resolving to review the position on the expiry of that period. The right of Government Departments to make use of the library in connection with their normal work and functioning had long been recognized, and individuals had also been permitted to make use of the library in their own interests, provided that no books were removed from the premises. Never before had personal loans been authorized to individuals other than Members of Parliament and Government officials whose duties brought them into contact with Parliament. The conditions stipulated by the Committee under which civil servants were to be accorded borrowing privileges were as follows:

- 1 A prospective borrower must obtain a certificate from the head of his or her department to the effect that he or she is an established or temporary member of the staff of that department. In the event of discharge or resignation from the civil service borrowing privileges are automatically forfeited.
- 2 If any book is lost or damaged whilst on loan the borrower incurs the responsibility of replacing the book or defraying the cost of its replacement.
- 3 No publication which is irreplaceable is available for loan.
- 4 The loan of any book may be refused and

any book is liable to immediate recall if required for other purposes.

- 5 Not more than two books may be borrowed at any one time and the loan period shall not exceed two weeks. Loans may be renewed for a further two weeks at the discretion of the Librarian if application is made.
- 6 Books from the lending stock only are available for loan.
- 7 Staff may attend to civil service borrowers only at such times when their parliamentary duties shall remain unaffected.
- 8 The borrowing of books from the Parliamentary Library is a privilege and there shall normally be no charge to borrowers.
- 9 Any borrower failing to comply with any of these regulations shall be liable to suspension.

A circular was sent to all Government Departments notifying them of the Committee's decision and requesting that it be brought to the attention of every member of the staff. Many civil servants at the time and since have taken advantage of the facilities thus offered. At the end of the first year the Committee agreed to the continuance of the arrangements and they have now become an accepted feature of the library. In the four years in which they have been operating only one serious case of abuse has occurred. Civil servants in the main appreciate the privileges offered to them and have been quick to take advantage of them. In a country starved of proper public library services the Library of Parliament has provided reading opportunities to many people who would otherwise be denied them. Books are available which in some cases are unobtainable elsewhere in Rhodesia, and school teachers, students and serious readers generally have reaped untold benefits from the system.

In 1951, on the recommendation of the Library Committee, Parliament increased the library vote to £1,000. The vote, it should be explained, is intended to cover periodical subscriptions and binding in addition to the purchase of books. Fortunately the library's binding commitments have never been very heavy, although in 1953 an additional £200 was voted specifically for binding purposes. Shortly after the vote was increased the library concluded an agreement with a firm of wholesalers in the United Kingdom under which substantial discounts are



LIBRARY OF PARLIAMENT, CAPE TOWN

Cape Times



THE LIBRARY OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,
SALISBURY, SOUTHERN RHODESIA

allowed on most new books. The combined effect of these two considerable benefits was to launch the library upon an era of comparative plenty, and for the first time a programme of near full-scale development could be planned. The Librarian did not depart from his policy of highly selective book buying but he was now able to broaden the library's scope, and no longer restrict his purchases to high priorities only.

Book selection policies

Book selection in the library, as previously stated, tends to be rigid. The library buys no fiction and it is thus possible to devote most of the available funds to strengthening the library's resources for research purposes. At the same time it should be borne in mind that the average price of a non-fiction book is considerably higher than that of a novel. The stock maintained is of a very high order and is most carefully chosen. Each book is considered individually with regard to its appropriateness and merit. Ephemera are strictly ruled out unless they are of so local a character as to justify their being kept as permanent records. The type of ephemeral material it is intended to exclude is the book of personal experiences with a title such as *I saw it happen in Korea*, the life stories of reformed communists, discussions on current problems by ill-informed theorists, and lesser travel books. The recent war saw a heavy output of such literature and it is this that the library is anxious to avoid. Few will deny that there are far too many books written to-day. It seems hardly necessary to add that an important topical survey of the stature of Chester Wilmot's *Struggle for Europe* is not classed as ephemeral. The Librarian considers that a fair test to apply to any book is to ask the question, "Will it be useful in ten years' time?" This policy will, of course, be subject to revision if, funds permitting, it is found in the future that increased use of the library results in any appreciable demand for the more ephemeral material.

The stock of a Parliamentary library is specialized to some considerable degree, but at the same time the subjects which are likely to be discussed in any legislative chamber cover rather a wide field. The problems of

book selection for such a library are many, as a nice adjustment has to be made between subjects which require exhaustive coverage, those needing fairly strong representation, and a large number which require at least something authoritative. Subjects we endeavour to cover as fully as possible are all aspects of parliament, constitutional law and history, administration, political science, economics, a variety of sociological subjects such as education and penal reform, and Africana, particularly South Africa and the Federation territories. Of these subjects economics presents the thorniest problem as regards book selection. It is difficult to maintain a strong section on this subject and at the same time prevent the infiltration of a certain amount of ephemera, especially when the selector seldom has an opportunity of examining a book prior to purchase. One naturally relies on the reputations of author and publisher and the reviews in the standard journals but cases inevitably arise when it is necessary to call upon one's own judgment. It is occasionally possible to enlist the advice of an expert in the subject. Most librarians will admit that economics is an outstanding example of a subject for which library training alone is insufficient to ensure competent book selection.

History is a subject to which particular consideration is given. A very strong history section is maintained and since exhaustive coverage is for obvious reasons out of the question, this section calls for very careful book selection. The degree of coverage varies with the country concerned. The library aims to provide at least one standard history of every country in the world. But some countries are more strongly represented than others. British history, for instance, is covered by a very wide range of books including several major histories such as *The Oxford History of England*. A country such as France is represented by one major multi-volume history and a strong collection of lesser works, whereas in the case of a country such as Peru one sound single-volume history would be considered sufficient for the purposes of the library. No reflection is intended on Peru as a country; the policy merely endeavours to measure the significance of each country in relation to Central Africa and thus preserves a sense of proportion on the shelves.

The library boasts a strong biography section whose limits are rather difficult to define. Although mainly devoted to statesmen past and present, other leading contemporary and historical personages are included. It is not an exclusive section although biographies of boxers, crooners, conjurers and similar personalities whose associations with Parliament are somewhat remote, will not be found on its shelves. Agriculture, religion, town planning and heraldry are examples of subjects which are broadly but authoritatively covered. For subjects not receiving much attention in the general stock we have the assistance of a comprehensive reference library. A feature of this is a complete set of the *Annual Register* from 1758, the first year of publication.

Exchange arrangements

The library relies on its exchange arrangements for all official publications. As every librarian knows these are as the sands of the sea, and much time is devoted to selecting those most likely to be useful from the lengthy lists published by the various governments of both Commonwealth and foreign countries. The function of a Parliamentary Library is largely that of a reference library and the most important part of its work is the provision of information to Members of Parliament and Government Departments, even the lending stock being mainly devoted to this purpose. A large percentage of enquiries received are for figures and in order to supply these the statistical resources of the library have been expanded to cover primarily the British Commonwealth countries and colonies, the United States, and neighbouring African territories. While on the subject of reference work a very valuable source of information is available in the bound volumes of the *London Times* back to 1919, complete with quarterly index.

The main difficulty confronting the library is the amazing rate at which bound volumes of newspapers and periodicals, official publications and statistical material eat up the shelf space. The question of space is a perennial one with most libraries. When Barry designed the handsome series of lofty rooms overlooking the Terrace which was to accommodate the House of Commons library, he probably wondered whether he had not given it too much room. One hundred years later the library had overflowed into Ministers' rooms, corridors, cellars and odd corners all over the palace of Westminster. The Southern Rhodesia Parliamentary Library is reluctantly following exactly the same process, and has just disgorged a large collection of bound newspapers into an adjacent corridor, the cellar already being fully occupied with similar material.

Future developments

At present the Southern Rhodesia Parliamentary Library is serving both the Federal and State Parliaments, but on the assumption that both capitals will not necessarily remain in Salisbury a start has been made on the purchase of books for a new Federal Library. The Federal Assembly will occupy a building, now nearing completion, in the grounds of the State Parliament, and a store room is being provided for the library where the books will be kept until the Federal Assembly decides where the permanent establishment is to be.

A firm decision which the Federal Librarian will probably take at the outset is not to classify his stock by Dewey. This matter could well form the subject of an entirely separate article; suffice it to say here that Dewey's classification is singularly unsuited to the peculiar requirements of a Library of Parliament.

LIBRARY NEWS

A recent appointment, announced in the Association's *Newsletter*, is that of Mr. J. W. Perry, M. A., F. L. A., formerly Deputy Librarian, University of Cape Town, to be Librarian of the University of Natal. Mr. Perry, who came to South Africa in 1948 from the Library of the United Nations, New York, occupied the post of Hon. Secretary of the

S. A. Library Association from 1950-52. He has been joined at Durban by another former member of the staff of the University of Cape Town, Mr. L. Milburn, B. A., F. L. A. who in the meantime has had experience in the colder clime of Tasmania as Librarian of the University there.

PROLEGOMENA TOT 'N BIBLIOTEEKGESKIEDENIS

deur PROF. DR. H. J. DE VLEESCHAUWER

Universiteit van Suid-Afrika

SO-EWE het ek die eerste band van 'n reeds lank beplande *Geskiedenis van die geleerde biblioteek in die Weste* voltooi. Hierdie band omvat in 'n manuskrip van vier honderd pagina's die Oosterse, die Klassieke en die Christelike Oudheid. Die twee volgende dele sal respektiewelik die Middeleeue en die moderne tyd behandel, en dit is die bedoeling om op grond van hierdie lywige stuk werk 'n baie beknopter handboek saam te stel, wat vir onderwysdoeleindes beter geskik as hierdie grootskeepse aanvoorwerk sal wees.

Onder die benaming „geleerde biblioteek” verstaan ek elke historiese biblioteekvorm wat as hulpmiddel vir didaktiek, meditasie of navorsing bedoel was. Dit sluit dienoooreenkomstig net die openbare volksbiblioteek uit, wat m.i. 'n heeltemal aparte hoofstuk in die evolusie van die biblioteek daarstel, sonder logies en organies uit die tradisionele boekversameling van die Weste voort te vloei.

Ek neem my voor om in die volgende pagina's en in 'n baie beknopte vorm 'n paar vrae van metode te belig waarvoor ek, en waarvoor per slot van sake elke outeur wat op hierdie gebied werksaam is, duidelikheid behoort te verkry voor en aler om tot enige redaksie te kan oorgaan.

Die stadium van die materiaalversameling vir soortgelyke geskiedenis was prakties reeds in Europa voor my aankoms in die Unie afgesluit. Maar sonder om dit oor die preliminêre en prinsipiële vrae van metode met myself eens te wees, kon daar van geen materiaal beheersing sprake wees nie. Vanuit die suiwer formele kant beskou, behoort die metode, om as geskiedenis te kan geld en op te tree, die algemene „historiese metode” te wees, en alles wat Droysen, De Smet, Bernheim, Langlois-Seignebos en Bauer dienaangaande beter as ek dit self sou kan doen, voorgeskrywe het, geld ook onverminderd en onverkort vir die biblioteekgeskiedenis.

Maar ek verstaan onder metode nie bloot 'n saak van formele kritiek nie, maar die metode is in my oë in 'n beslissende mate afhanklik van die spesifieke opvatting wat iemand

oor die wese van die biblioteek koester, en van die bepaalde perspektief waaronder hy die biblioteek in sy koers deur die eeue sien en interpreteer. Dit sal wel by hierdie geleentheid oorbodig wees om verder oor die formele metode uit te wei, maar dit kan van beslissende belang wees om duidelike rekenskap omtrent die biblioteekopvatting self te verkry.

II

Daardie sinbepaling en wese-omskrywing is nie so eenvoudig as dit by die eerste oogopslag wel kan blyk nie. Dit is natuurlik gou gesê: 'n Biblioteek is versameling boeke. Maar met hierdie Palisse-waarheid het ons, helaas, nie baie gevorder nie. By die lank en vinnig gedebateerde onderskeid tussen biblioteek en argief sal ek nie stilstaan nie, en in sover die onderskeid tussen altwee wat in die XIXde eeu skerp kante aangeneem het maar tans opnuut aan die vervaag is, mag die volgende volstaan. 'n Argief lyk my bestem om geskifte te bewaar wat op hulself in die egte sin van die woord *handeling* of aktes van offisiële, semi-offisiële of private persone of instellinge daarstel, terwyl 'n biblioteek *gedagteskrifte*, wetenskaplik en literêr, tot sy natuurlike besit reken.

Selfs met betrekking tot die wel gekarakteriseerde *gedagteskrifte* kon tot nog toe geen volstreekte ooreenstemming verkry word met betrekking tot die vraag of elke hoeveelheid geskifte van daardie aard die naam van biblioteek verdien nie. Die een, bv. Mazarin se knap bibliotekaris, Gabriel Naudé, stel voor dat 'n veelheid *gedagteskrifte* nog aan twee ander voorwaardes behoort te voldoen om 'n biblioteek te vorm: eerstens moet 'n minimum aantal werke aanwesig wees, en tweedens moet hulle volgens 'n rasonale opstellingsmetode gerangskik word. Maar daarby sien hy oor die hoof dat van sommige klein biblioteke van die Middeleeue wat in hulle aanvangstyd miskien nie meer as vyf-en-twintig bande getel het, en in hulle beste oomblikke slegs in uiters seldsame gevalle die duisendtal bereik het,

meer kultuurdraende en kultuurvormende werking uitgegaan het as van die gigantiese Library of Congress in ons XXste eeu.

'n Tweede sal die karakter van die biblioteek verbind met die aanwesigheid van 'n bepaalde intensie wat eers die biblioteekstigter en op 'n later stadium die biblioteekleier besiel. Maar met uitsondering van 'n versameling boeke wat met verkoop en winsdoeleindes byeengebring word en dienvolgens aan die begrip boekhandel beantwoord, kan versamelinge sonder om hulle karakter van biblioteek te verloor hulle oorsprong aan verskillende intensies te danke hê wat met dié wat aangegee word nie altyd ooreenstem nie. Skoolse didaktiek, geestelike vorming van die lesende, mediterende en studerende enkeling, sosiale representasie was o.a. in die loop van die tye singewende en wesebepalende inspirasies van die mees outentieke biblioteekstigtings.

'n Derde biblioteekkundige sal die aard en omvang van die *benutting* as maatstaf op die voorgrond plaas. Hierdie bepaling wat die suiwer bibliofiele as die vyand nommer een beskou, moet regstreeks tot die uitsluiting van 'n aantal historiese versamelings lei, wat ons egter om ander redes weer nie wou prysgee nie. Ons kry immers die indruk dat ons daardeur die aansienlikste deel van die weelde-representasiebiblioteke van die aardse groothede as bastervorme gaan beskou, 'n vorm van versameling wat op sommige tyd-stippe, bv. tydens die Renaissance, die vernaamste en, vanuit 'n kultuurhistoriese oogpunt beskou, die mees representatiewe binne daardie tydperk was. En die versamelings van die Renaissance-patriciër is ten spyte van sy onbenuttigde vertoonkarakter ewegoed 'n biblioteek as ons daeliks benuttigde universiteitsbiblioteek. Vir die historicus lyk derhalwe die breedste omskrywing van die biblioteek die beste en die veiligste, omdat hy besef hoe deur die bykomende bepalinge en spesifikasies 'n aantal beperkings ontstaan wat nie ooreenstem met die historiese feit dat hierdie rekwisiete wat aan die biblioteek gestel word in die loop van die tye baie veranderlik was nie. Dit loop net op 'n vermindering van die onderwerp uit.

III

Op die keerpunt van die XVIIde eeu en wel in 1602, het Justus Lipsius die eerste biblioteekgeskiedenis van die Oudheid wat

ons ken¹ nl. *De Bibliothecis Syntagma*, geopen met die woorde: Bibliotheca tria significat: Locum, Armarium, Libros. In aansluiting by wat hier voorafgaan sou ek die saak enigins anders wil stel, nl. dat ons die een en onverdeelde biblioteekwese vanuit 'n drievoudige oogpunt kan benader, nl. as materiële en tegniese behuising van boeke, as bewaar- en benuttingsbeleid, en ten slotte as 'n kulturele fenomeen in sover elke versameling die resultant, die bevordering en die skepping van geestelike waardes op die oog het en verseker, en wederkerig ook daaruit ontstaan is. Die bergingsgebou en -materiaal beantwoord aan die eerste gesigspunt, terwyl die omvang en die inhoud met die tweede ooreenstem. Die weerspieëling van 'n historiese kultuurstand in sy oorsprong, of die wil tot skepping en bevordering van 'n kultuur in en deur sy beleid, is vir die historicus soos ek dit opvat, die derde en vernaamste gesigspunt. Namate die twee eerste gesigspunte by die boekstaving van die biblioteekgeskiedenis die meeste aandag geniet of intendeel die klem daarby op die kulturele funksie van die biblioteek val, kry ons in my terminologie weergegee 'n antikwariese of 'n kultuurhistoriese biblioteekgeskiedenis.

Sekerlik, daar kan geen geskiedenis van die biblioteek oorweeg word wat uitsluitlik die een of ander sou wees nie, en elke geskiedenis sal gevolglik altyd in 'n dosering van die verskillende biblioteekaspekte bestaan. Maar waar ons die meeste monografie oor die lokale en regionale biblioteekwese voor die gees laat gaan, is dit onaantreklik dat die spesifieke biblioteekkundige aspekte van aanskaffing, huisvesting, omvang, opstelling, katalogisering, ens. by voorkeur onder die soeklig gekom het sonder dat baie aandag aan die kultuurhistoriese bedding en werking geskenk is.

Ten einde nie misverstaan te word nie, herhaal ek nog 'n keer dat hierdie biblioteekaspekte deur geen historiese navorsing oor die hoof gesien kan word nie, omdat hulle spesifieke en onmiskenbare gegewens van die biblioteekverlede daarstel. Waar ek van my kant 'n geskiedenis wat hierdie gegewens beklemtoon 'n antikwariese noem, heg ek derhalwe aan daardie term nie die minste perjoratiewe of geringskattende betekenis nie. Ek lei my term

¹ As ons daarby geen rekening hou met die kort aantekeninge van Isidoor van Sevilla se *Etymologiae* nie.

eenvoudig af van die Latynse *antiquitates* of realia waarmee die onderwys in die klassieke tale ons vanop die hoërskoolbanke vertrouwd gemaak het. Gegewens van dié aard besit geen pragmatiese waarde nie, d.w.s. die waarde van voorbeeld waarby die huidige gebruik kan aansluit en waarby dit inspirasie kan soek.

'n Biblioteek, selfs waar dit toevallig 'n skepping van individuele persone of instellinge is, bly nietemin in sy wese en vorme die afstraling van 'n kollektiwiteit waarop die enkeling maar min vat het. Daar is geen biblioteek wat in die omvang en inhoud van sy besit, in die intensies waaraan dit sy ontstaan te danke het en wat die beleid van biblioteekstigters en biblioteekleiers bepaal, en in die benutting wat van sy versameling gemaak word, nie 'n lewende demonstrasie van 'n bepaalde tydskultuur daarstel nie. Dientenvolge mag ons die biblioteekwese sonder gevaar en beswaar as 'n hulpinstrument aanwend om die kultuurtemperatuur van 'n tyd of van 'n regio na te gaan. En dit is nie die geringste verdienste waarop die biblioteekgeskiedenis mag aanspraak maak nie.

Ook die omgekeerde is waar of kan ten minste waar wees. In sover bestaan, die aard en die gevoelstonus van die biblioteek self deur sy kulturele agtergrond en deur die eie situasie van sy tyd bepaal word, kom my die biblioteek nie bloot as die afstraling of as die demonstrasie van daardie situasie nie maar ook in sommige geprivilegieerde gevalle, as 'n skeppende agens voor. Dit stam uit 'n kultuursituasie, maar werk daarop terug. Die emigrasie van mense en boeke deur oorloë, historiese revolusies of politieke repressies, ens., en somtyds die emigrasie van hele biblioteke het altyd sterk in die lewe en ontwikkeling van die intellektuele beskawing inbegryp. Ons behoort ons net die lotgevalle van Aristoteles se boekbesit as private skoolbiblioteek of die invloed van die Ierse en Angelsaksiese boekemigrasies op die Westerse vasteland of die kultuurbeleid van Karel die Grote in hierdie verband sowel as die openbare biblioteekwese van Rome voor die gees te roep om dit te staf.

Ook met betrekking tot die lastige probleem van kultuurverbreiding en -verspreiding kan die biblioteekgeskiedenis baie aanduidings van onskatbare waarde verskaf. Dit is immers in sommige gevalle moontlik om deur sy bemiddeling na te gaan langs watter paaie en kanale en in watter tempo die kultuur en sy indruk-

wekkendste geskrewe gedenkstukke hulle oor 'n bepaalde tyd en area versprei het. En ek mag hier aan toevoeg dat ek persoonlik langs hierdie probleem van die kultuurekspansie in verband met die ou kloosterbiblioteek van Corbie tot die biblioteekgeskiedenis gekom het waar oorspronklik nie tot my lewensprogram behoort het nie. Dat die biblioteek onder omstandighede regstreeks 'n kultuur in die lewe kan roep, bewys ons die verband tussen die Christelike eenheidskultuur van die Middeleeue wat tot die XIIde eeu ongebroke was, en sy biblioteke.¹

'n Ander bewys vir dieselfde opvatting lewer ons die wetenskaplike kultuur van die XIXde en XXste eeu wat die massabiblioteek en die laboratorium as oorsake het, terwyl die openbare leesbiblioteek vir baie goeie en slegte aspekte van ons populêre kultuur en van die huidige kultuurkrisis verantwoordelik gestel mag word. Die skaarse biblioteekgeskiedenis wat bestaan, beweeg hulle by voorkeur in die antikwariese rigting. Ek wil daarenteë in myne die kultuurhistoriese aspekte op die voorgrond bring sonder om die tegniese en argeologiese oor die hoof te sien. Ek het my nie met die standpunt van die bibliotekaris of die biblioteekkundige vereenselwig nie, maar gaan van die gedagte uit dat die biblioteek 'n tipiese, insiggewende kultuurverskynsel is en dienoreenkomstig behoort behandel te word. Slegs in uiters seldsame gevalle kan die biblioteekgeskiedenis 'n pragmatiese waarde hê (wat die antikwariese standpunt 'n groot krag sou bysit).

Vir die aktuele beleid kan maar min rigtinggewende elemente in die biblioteekverlede gevind word, omdat die twee intellektuele kultuursituasies so geweldig van mekaar verskil. Die katalogiseringsvraagstuk vanaf die beleid van Hattusa, Ninive of die Eliasklooster by Khartoum en die Middeleeuse biblioteek-kataloë tot die XVIIde eeu besit geen aktuele waarde meer nie en kan nie meer inspirerend werk op 'n verbeelding wat met die andersoortige hedendaagse moeilikhede te kampe het nie. Ons Dewey het ten spyte van sy geweldige tekortkominge en sy soms skroomlike vergissings meer sin in en vir die universele massabiblioteek van vandag waartoe die libera-

¹ Sien my artikel: Bibliotheken und die Geistige Einheit des Mittelalters (*Vierteljahrsschrift für Literaturwissenschaft und Geistesgeschichte*, Jrg. 27 Heft 2 pp. 169-181, 1953).

lisme in die XIXde en XXste eeu aanleiding gegee het, en wat sy laaste en verste oorsprong in die boekdrukking vind. Sedert die intense gebruik van die drukpers het die massa van die kant miskien 'n seën maar van die ander kant ook 'n geweldige las – geestelik en materieel – geword. Dis daardie las wat tot die geboorte van Dewey gelei het. Maar nietemin het die beskeie boekelyste van Fontenelle uit die VIIIste en van Sankt Gallen uit die IXde eeu 'n ewe groot kultuur-openbarende belang vir hulle tyd en vir ons as die Dewey vir ons die wanhoopsituasie verduidelik waaruit hy ontstaan het.

IV

Ons mag dienvolgens ons ernstig afvra of 'n biblioteekgeskiedenis wat hom natuurlik hoofsaaklik tot die biblioteekkundiges rig, ook ewe noodsaaklik die taal van die bibliotekaris behoort te praat. My kultuurhistoriese opvatting van die biblioteek lei my daartoe om dit nie te doen nie, en om veelmeer die biblioteek van die standpunt van sy gebruiker te beskou. Met 'n bietjie ondervinding leer die gebruiker die biblioteek as die lewende eksponent van wetenskap en kultuur en as die universiteitsinstelling ken wat vir die wetenskap en die navorsing van oneindig groter belang as die hoorsaal geword het. Die biblioteekgeskiedenis sal die glanspunte van die biblioteek in die oorlewerende bewaring en in die wetenskapbevorderende en -skeppende mededeling van die beskawing ontdek.

In die dae van die Romantiek het 'n mens die biblioteek die geheue van die denkende mensheid genoem, al onthou ons dat die grimmige Schopenhauer daarby van 'n papiergeheue gepraat het. Die klem skyn dus in die romantiese opvatting op die bewaarfunksie te val. Maar is dit wel die vernaamste funksie? M.i., nie, want sonder die benutting of sonder iemand wat van die bewaarde afweet, kan ons self nie beweer nie dat dit 'n geheue, maar wel dat dit 'n kerkhof is. Bibliotekarisse wat terselfdertyd geleerdes was, soos bv. Adolf van Harnack en Fritz Milkau, regverdig die bewaring deur die benutting.

Hierdie tweeledige funksie maak van die oorsprong af die wese van die biblioteek uit, selfs daar waar die stigters, die besitters of die leiers net aan hul eie persoon gedink het en

selfs op die hardste krisismomente van die beskawing in die Weste waar oorwegings van veiligheid, redding, bewaring en trading reeds verdienstelike kultuurdade daarstel. Daaraan mag hier terloop ter ere van die Ptolemaeërs en ander Diadoche, van 'n Cassiodorus en van 'n Karel die Grote herinner word. In hierdie opsig lyk my Ortega di Gasset in sy kongrestoespraak 'n verkeerde uitkyk op die dinge te hê. Hy beweer nl. dat die biblioteek eers met die Renaissance sy tweede en vernaamste funksie, nl. die benutting behartig het. Dit mag ook waar wees dat die klemmende biblioteekprobleme veelmeer benuttigings- as bewaarprobleme was sedert die dae dat die boek 'n massaproduk geword het. Dit mag ook waar wees dat voor dié datum die lesende en studerende publiek seer sekerlik kleiner in omvang en geslotener van karakter was as tans en sedert die Renaissance stadigaan breër geword het. Maar of hierdie oorwegings die funksie self raak, mag ons betwyfel.

Ons behoort egter op hierdie stadium te probeer om ons 'n oomblik in die vroeë Middeleeue in te lewe, in die Middeleeue met al hulle armoede aan boeke, maar met hulle energieke en verbete kultuurwil; in die Middeleeue waar geen ander middel tot bewaring en benutting gestaan het en waarin die geleerde deur dieselfde self-skryfery die geestelike verlede van Oudheid en Christendom ook al bewarende benuttig het. Die biblioteek wil in soortgelyke omstandighede net bewaar wat regstreeks benuttig kan word, en nooit was die parallelisme tussen altwee biblioteekfunksies groter as in die dae van die geestelike pauperisme van die Weste nie.

In die oë van 'n kultuurhistoriese biblioteekgeskiedenis is die wesenlike funksie van die biblioteek sy benutting. Dis die geval en behoort die geval te wees vir al die vorme wat die boekversameling ook al mag aanneem, sowel vir die klein private biblioteek van die geleerdes in die Oudheid en die moderne tyd, vir die kloosterbiblioteek van die Middeleeue, vir die universiteitsbiblioteek van ons XXste eeu. Al die verwagtings wat 'n mens van daardie geskiedenis koester, is hiervan afhanklik of 'n mens in die bewaring en in die benutting van die vasgelegde en geboekstaafde kennis van die verlede die grondslag van die aktuele beleid en die van die toekoms sien (soos Milkau bv.), of intendeel die klem op die bewaring van dokumente uit 'n geestelike

verlede as uitgangspunt vir die toekomstige navorsing val (soos Vorstius probeer om te doen).

In die greep van 'n duidelike gevoel van kreatiewe swakheid het die erudisie-arbeid van die Hellenistiese biblioteekbeleid die redding van die Griekse kultuurarbeid vir eeue verseker. Die Middeleeuse biblioteek het sy aandag uit 'n gelyksoortige gevoel gelyklik oor hede en verlede verdeel. Hierdie biblioteek was aangedrewe deur die wil na kulturele verheffing van die nuwe Christelike Weste, maar getemper deur die gevoel van persoonlike magtelosheid en weens daardie gevoel het die Middeleeue met 'n ewe bestlste eensydigheid na die skaarse oorlewende spore van die Oudheid gegryp.

Hierdie terugkeer tot die verlede gebeur derhalwe nie uit enige historiese belangstelling of uit enige besef van 'n nypende kultuurkrisis nie, maar wel uit die wil tot skepping wat terselfertyd deur die oortuiging van persoonlike onvermoë deurkruis word. Die moderne geleerde biblioteek het net soos die Middeleeuse ontstaan om vir dieselfde skepping en navorsing as springplank te dien, maar hierdie keer in teenstelling tot die Middeleeue in 'n onbegrensde gevoel van vertroue in sy skeppende vermoë. M.a.w. die benutting lyk wel op elke stadium van die biblioteekontwikkeling die uitstaande funksie van die instelling te wees, ten spyte van die feit dat meer as een keer 'n skerp krisis- en onmagsgesvoel sy ontstaan en ontwikkeling lei en die bewaarfunksie as regstreekse doeleinde betrag.

V

Een van die grootste vooroordele wat die filosofie in die geskiedenis van die Westerse denke ingevoer het, is die geloof aan die volstreekte gelykheid van die menslike wese en gevolglik aan die eenvormigheid van sy reaksies. Ook die kultuurhistoriese biblioteekgeskiedenis behoort uit te gaan van die gedagte dat elke optrede van die biblioteekverskynsel dwarsdeur die geskiedenis nie aan 'n identiese intensie, aan 'n gelyksoortige inspirasie of aan 'n volstrek eenduidige kultuurgevoel behoort te beantwoord nie. Waar ons die geskiedenis geen geweld aandoen nie, behoort ons daarin nie net na uiterlike biblioteekvorme nie maar ook na biblioteekintensies te vra en te onderskei

waaronder dit onmoontlik blyk om die diepste beweegredes van die biblioteekrealisasies van die Weste in sy verskillende tydstoppe raak te sien. Soortgelyke intensies moet voor alles duidelik voor die gees staan, omdat hulle aan die basis van 'n behoorlike periodisering van die biblioteekgeskiedenis lê.

Biblioteekstigtings en -rigtings mag deur die skerp besef van 'n kultuurkrisis geïnspireer word juis soos die ensiklopediese arbeid wat met die laat-Romeinse keiserryk en by 'n Isidoor van Sevilla ontstaan het. Nie elke ensiklopedie gaan natuurlik op die gevoel van 'n kultuurkrisis terug nie (soos bv. dié van Beda Venerabilis, van 'n Vincent van Beauvais of van die laat-Middeleeue nie), maar waar dit wel die geval is, sien ons die biblioteek ontstaan of ontwikkel op die maat van dieselfde sentiment en dikwels by dieselfde persone. Hierdie parallellisme tussen biblioteke en ensiklopedie is 'n interessante kultuurverskynsel wat nog nooit die aandag van die historici op hom gevestig het nie. Die Hellenistiese Diadoche-stigtings te Alexandrië en in voor-Asië wat onmiddellik na die dood van Alexander die Grote en na die vestiging van die Diadocheryke ontstaan het, ontleen hulle ontstaan en die literêr wetenskaplike arbeid wat binne hulle mure ontwikkel is aan 'n ewe skerp as duidelike krisisbesef.

Maar aan die basis van 'n boek- en biblioteekbeleid kan ook bewuste kultuurpolitieke oogmerke lê. Die mees duidelike voorbeeld daarvan is ongetwyfeld die boekpolitiek wat die Karolingiese Renaissance ontwikkel het en wat onweerspreklik uit so 'n bewuste politieke wil gebore is. Sommige Gereformeerde kreasies in Duitsland in die loop van die XVIIde eeu het dieselfde oorsprong. Bowendien kan nuttigheidsdoeleindes die ontstaan van meer verklaar, soos bv. die tempelbiblioteek van die Ooste, die kerkbiblioteek van die Christelike gemeentes in die voor-Konstantynse tyd, die asketiese leesbiblioteke van die beskouende en van die wêreld afgekeerde monnikwese (Cluny), die moderne administratiewe en Cameralistiese versamelinge, ens.

Nuttigheidssoogmerke behoort nie noodwendiglik perjoratief opgevat te word nie, want dit kan dikwels en het ook dikwels 'n verhewe karakter gehad. Uit die aard van die saak self stel die didaktiese doelstellings van die onderwys 'n belangrike faktor in die

universeel-Westerse biblioteekgeskiedenis daar. Ten slotte behoort ons aan die suiwer didaktiese doelstelling wat die bestaan aan so 'n groot aantal instellinge gegee het die wetenskaplike navorsingstrewes as biblioteekstigter en -onderhoudende beginsel te erken. Vir sy rol in ons kultuurgeskiedenis mag die private biblioteek van ontelbare individuele geleerdes wat ons dwarsdeur die Europese geskiedenis vanaf die Oudheid, dog veral vanaf die Renaissance aantref, ewegoed as die moderne universiteitsbiblioteke van die laaste eeu, ons leer wat beslis meer op navorsing as op die ondersteuning van die akademiese doseerbedryf gerig is.

VI

Al die biblioteekvorme wat ek so-euwe opgesom het, beantwoord aan oogmerke en insigte met uitgesproke geestelike karakter. Selfs die utilitêre kan in talle gevalle daartoe gereken word. Nogtans kry ons daarbenewens as leidende en inspirerende beginsel in die tyd van die Renaissancepatriciaat en van die absolutistiese Barokpolitiek 'n behoefte aan mags- en rykdomvertoon en aan sosiale aansien wie se bevrediging sowel in die oprigting van kosbare vertoon- of representasiebiblioteke as in die bou van kuns en smaakvolle argitektuurwerke of in die bevordering van die beeldende kunste gesoek word. Die biblioteek is dan geen werk- of navorsingsinstrument nie maar 'n weeldevertoning. Kultuurtranslasie of kultuurskepping lê buitekant die insigte van die stigters, al mag die opbou daarvan deur vertroude en kundige medewerkers uiteindelik tog 'n aansienlike kulturele uitwerking ontwikkel. Later kry ons nog 'n suiwer bibliofiele belangstelling vir die boek, somtyds ook met handelsdoeleindes as belegging gekonsipieer, versamelings van eerste uitgawes, van spesiale drukke op groot papier, van geïllustreerde werke, van spesiale bindwerk, ens. Ten slotte het die Verligtingsliberalisme en die sosiaaldemokrasie in die faktor van volksonderhouding en volksopleiding ryk vloeiende bronne van biblioteekskepping geword.

Vorstius ken aan die biblioteek slegs twee funksies toe: 'n passiewe of die bewaring en oorlewering van kultuur, en 'n aktiewe of die skepping van kultuur. So 'n kader is m.i. veels te eng en te globalisties om die wese van die onderskeie biblioteekvorme te onderken. Die

differensieringsgedagte waarsonder die kultuurgeskiedenis nie geskiedenis is nie, maar kultuurfilosofie word, verg van ons dat ons by die bepaling van die biblioteekvorme baie skerper toekyk waar dit gaan om die ontstaans- en vormbepalende oorsake daarvan op te spoor. Ook die konkrete opdragte wat daarby aan die biblioteekleier opgedra word en wat hierdie man so dikwels verkeerd verstaan en verkeerd uitvoer, kom baie meer tot hulle reg wanneer ons 'n meer akkurate insig in die bewegende kragte kry wat beheer oor die instellinge voer. En op hierdie manier kom ons vanself tot 'n ander indeling van die biblioteekontwikkeling.

As indelingsskema het Vorstius die volgende twee as moontlik aangewys: 'n eerste op basis van die kultuurkringe, en 'n tweede op basis van die skryfmateriaal en vorme van die versamelde boekevoorraad. Volgens die eerste beginsel kry ons 'n voor-Asiatiese, 'n Westers-Indogermaanse en 'n Islamitiese biblioteekwese. Volgens die tweede onderskei hy as ontwikkelingsfases die kleitafelbiblioteek van die Tweestrome-gebied, die papyrusbiblioteek van Egipte en die klassieke Oudheid, die perkament- en papiercodex-biblioteek van die Middeleeue, en eindelijk die gedrukte boekbiblioteek van die moderne tyd.

Wanneer ons by hierdie laaste periodisering van die materiaalaspek afstand doen, stem dit met die eenvoudige chronologie van die algemene geskiedenis vanuit 'n Westerse oogpunt gesien ooreen: Oosterse Oudheid, Klassieke Oudheid, Middeleeue, moderne tyd. Maar waar hierdie periodisering die materiaal as indelingbeginsel van boek- en biblioteekontwikkeling op die voorgrond bring, kan opponeer dat die materiaal wel die uiterlike daarstellingsvorm van die boek maar nie van die biblioteek bepaal nie. En teen altwee indelingsgronde kan ons die bedenking opper dat nie een daarvan die kultuur-funksionele rol van die biblioteek in aanmerking neem nie.

Ons kan nog 'n ander skema uitvind, nl. die indeling van die biblioteekwese in 'n periode voor en 'n periode na die uitvinding van die vermenigvuldiging van die boek deur beweegbare letters of van die drukkuns, of m. a. w. die skrif- en die drukkunsbiblioteek. Ongetwyfeld rys met die drukkuns talle biblioteekvorme op wat die bewaar- en benuttingsbeleid sterk differensieer. Die opstelling, die katalogisering en die klassifikasie is probleme wat in die Weste altans maar 'n sin kan hê sedert die

biblioteek daeliks met die faktor massa moet worstel, en die massafaktor is die regstreekse gevolg van die drukkuns.

Maar al bring die massafaktor ongetwyfeld ook talle nuwe bewaarprobleme teweeg, dit bly dit tog hoofsaaklik benuttigingsprobleme wat deur die tegniese vooruitgang in die maak van die boek aan die biblioteek gestel word. Wanneer ons bloot met die bewaring en met bewaringsprobleme rekening hou, mag ook daardie indeling met die tweede van Vorstius saamval, want die bewaring van die handskriftelike en van die gedrukte codex verskil nie essensieel van mekaar nie. Maar die benuttigbaarheid en die effektiewe benuttigingsbeleid word in 'n ontsaglike mate deur die massakarakter van die drukke-biblioteek beïnvloed. Nogtans gaan ons ook hiervan afstap, omdat die funksionele rol van die onderskeie biblioteekvorme hierby al te sterk op die agtergrond bly.

Ons het dit self gewaag om ons biblioteekgeskiedenis volgens 'n baie konserwatiewe beginsel te organiseer, maar met die toevoeging van die funksionele karakter van elke indelingslid. Hierdie laaste mag miskien uiterlik 'n rewolusionêre indruk maak, maar ten onregte. Die konserwatiewe beginsel bestaan in die oornam van die periodisering van die algemene politieke geskiedenis van die Weste; die sogenaamde rewolusionêre in die toevoeging van die funksionele karakter van die biblioteekvorm wat vir elke periode tipies is.

Ons onderskei op hierdie manier vyf biblioteekperiodes, nl. die konserwatiewe groot-biblioteek van die Oudheid, die meditatiewe of didaktiese kleinbiblioteek van die Middeleeue, die sosial-representatiewe biblioteek van die Renaissance en Barok, die wetenskaplike navorsingsbiblioteek van die liberalisme en die edukatiewe volksbiblioteek van die laaste eeu. Ten einde hierby nie misverstaan te word nie, moet ek die aandag op 'n besonderheid

vestig. Eers en veral word in bovermelde indeling bloot die „tipiese” vorm aangegee en ek wens derhalwe heeltemal nie die feit uit te sluit nie dat naas die tipiese ook deurlewende vorme van vroeër tydperke bly voortbestaan. Niks is meer konserwatief as skool en biblioteek nie. Die private kleinbiblioteek van individuele geleerdes bv. sal ons bestendig op elke tydstip aantref en dit sal ook die geval met ander vorme wees. Op soortgelyke restriksies behoort elke geskiedenis voorberei te wees. Die nadere karakterisering van die vyf tipiese biblioteekvorme sou my te ver voer, en behoort die onderwerp van 'n aparte bydrae te maak.

VII

Ofskoon daar nog oneindig meer as wat hierbo opgesom is as prolegomena tot die biblioteekgeskiedenis aangevoer kan word, mag dit vir my beperkte doel voldoende wees, nl. om die opvatting wat ek my oor die biblioteekgeskiedenis gemaak het 'n ietsie nader toe te lig. Die biblioteekgeskiedenis waarvan die eerste deel nou voltooid is, word heeltemal volgens die teoretiese beskouings waarmee die leser nou kennis gemaak het opgebou en die twee volgende bande sal op 'n identiese basis en volgens 'n gelyke metode saamgestel word.

Biblioteekgeskiedenis is kultuurgeskiedenis weens die subtiële wisselwerking tussen die biblioteek en die kultuur. Sy aandeel en sy funksie in die intellektuele beskawing van die Weste was m.i. te groot en hang te innig met die bewegings van die gees saam om hulle van mekaar te vervreem en van mekaar af te sonder. En dat dit nie ongevaarlik is om op die verlede van die Westerse biblioteek met oë van die XXste eeu terug te blik, behoort elkeen van my hoofstukke te leer. Daar het inderdaad al te veel on-Westerse dinge in ons aktuele biblioteekopvattinge ingesypel, omdat dit anders sou kan wees.

SUMMARY

The purpose of this article is to indicate and discuss the method and approach adopted by the author in his work on the history of the learned library in the West, of which the first volume, dealing with the libraries of the ancient world, was recently completed; two others, on the Middle Ages and on the library in modern times, are in course of preparation.

After defining the learned library as "any kind of

library intended as an aid to teaching, meditation or research", and thus excluding the popular or public library, the writer states that the "historical method" commonly used in Europe applies to a large extent to the writing of library history, but with this significant difference: the library has always been an institution reflecting the "cultural temperature" of the times, and on occasion has even been a creative force in the shaping of cultural patterns.

To discover and interpret this relationship is perhaps the most important task of the library historian.

Various definitions of a library are then examined. It is basically a collection of documents, but its character does not depend on its size, or even on the presence or absence of a definite purpose on the part of its founders or curators. Some scholars maintain that the most important element in a library is its usefulness (*benuttiging*), which immediately excludes from consideration many collections of historical interest which were representative in their epoch, but which have long since lost their utilitarian functions. The historian prefers the widest possible definition, to cover the varying circumstances of the library during its long history.

The author then quotes Justus Lipsius, the earliest known historian of the libraries of the ancient world, who at the beginning of the 17th century defined the main elements of the library as being: Building, Librarian, Books. This conception of the library is then further examined from three points of view: the material and technical housing of books; the framing of policies for preservation and use; and finally, consideration of the library as a "cultural phenomenon", which is not only the end-product of spiritual and cultural forces, but also in some cases their creator. To the writer this last conception is the least known and the most important. He calls this approach "antiquarian" (*antikwaries*), in contrast to the more familiar pragmatic and utilitarian approaches of most library historians.

In support of his thesis the writer describes the movement of books (and the ideas they contain) from country to country during such times of stress as wars and political revolutions, quoting as examples the fortunes of Aristotle's private library which came to reach a wider audience as an instrument of teaching, the migration of Irish and Anglo-Saxon books to Western Europe, and the policy of cultural encouragement so consciously fostered by Charlemagne. The same phenomenon can be observed in the growth of the scientific culture of the 19th and 20th centuries, based on cross-fertilisation of ideas in the mass-library and laboratory, while the good and bad features of contemporary thought and culture are similarly reflected in the public libraries of to-day.

It is difficult to discover guiding principles in the shaping of library history which are common both to the modern and ancient worlds, because the intellectual circumstances are so different from one another—though the study of parallel situations in the ancient world can still throw light on our difficulties of to-day.

Next the writer examines the criteria of "beware of *benuttiging*" — preservation and use, commenting that although the library was once described as the collective memory of thinking mankind, it stood in danger, without the necessary knowledge for its use, of becoming not a memory, but a graveyard. Moreover the writer criticises the contention of Ortega y Gasset that the use-aspect of the library was first developed and encouraged at the time of the Renaissance. He contrasts this view with the conditions in the early Middle Ages, when the preservers of culture, at a time of acute cultural

crisis, looked backwards to the spiritual and intellectual inheritance of classical and early Christian times, and, aware of their individual powerlessness, chose to preserve what was also of the most use to them in facing their contemporary crisis. This again is contrasted with the modern learned library, also facing a cultural crisis, but with unbounded confidence in its creative powers.

After touching on the unexplored parallel between the library and the encyclopaedia in history, the writer refers to the conscious encouragement of books and libraries as instruments of educational and even political policy, and stresses the powerful influence of the private libraries of individual scholars on the shaping of thought and action. Even the use of libraries — as in the Renaissance period — as a medium for the display of material wealth and patrician pride, can be shown to have its place in the transmission of culture, leading later to specialization in particular aspects of the material book, such as first editions, special bindings, and so forth.

The writer then quotes Vorstius as distinguishing two main functions for the library throughout history: the passive one of preserving and transmitting culture and knowledge, and the active one of creating it. This is considered too narrow and generalized a distinction, and leads one to construct a different scheme of classification. Whereas Vorstius divided his material on the basis, firstly of "kultuurkringe" or phases of culture, and secondly on the successive phases through which the physical book has evolved, the writer believes that the function of the book is confused with the particular function of the library as such. Nor is it sufficient to divide the subject into periods of time distinguished by such factors as the discovery of moveable type in the West, with all its implications.

Reviewing all these possibilities, the writer chooses what he calls a very conservative principle on which to organize his material: taking over the chronological time-periods of general political history, but adding the *functional* character of whichever form of library is typical in each particular period. Thus he distinguishes five main 'library time-periods': the conservative and sizeable library of the ancient world; the contemplative or didactic library, of comparatively small dimensions, of the Middle Ages; the socially-characteristic library of the Renaissance and Baroque period; the scientific research library evolved by liberal thought, and the popular library — as an agent of further education — of modern times. These categories all overlap, but they are sufficiently differentiated for their purpose.

The writer concludes by saying that library history comprises not only the history of libraries, but also of the subtle interplay between libraries and the social culture of their time; they cannot be separated from their social context. Moreover, to trace the evolution of libraries in the Western world through the eyes of the twentieth century is a valuable experience in itself, showing how many elements foreign to Western thought have infiltrated through the long course of historical development.

D. H. V.

THE PRIVATE LIBRARY OF A SCIENTIST

by PROFESSOR A. E. BLEKSLEY

University of the Witwatersrand

ANY LIBRARY, however small and unimportant, has by nature a dual interest for the book lover : it will contain books that have an intrinsic value, no matter where they are found, and there is the reflection of the interests and even the personality of the collector and owner. I do not propose to say anything about the ordinary and professional side of my library ; there has been deliberate collection and not so deliberate accumulation of books, and there is much on my shelves that is not of general interest. I have, however, one or two shelves of unusual books, that might attract the eye :

Humboldt, Alexander, freiherr von, 1769–1859. *Kosmos, Entwurf einer physischen Weltbeschreibung*. Stuttgart and Tübingen, Cotta, 1845–62. 5v.

This is an extraordinary book by an extraordinary person. Von Humboldt studied botany then became an explorer and a natural historian. He was the first modern physical geographer and the first man who realised the importance of meteorology for geography, geology and biology. When he was forty he was, excepting Napoleon, the most well-known man in Europe. He started writing his *Kosmos* when he was well over 70 and the last volume which he completed himself, Vol. 4, appeared a year before his death. Vol 5. was published posthumously and is a fragmentary collection of his remaining notes. The book is an attempt to summarise the whole knowledge of the physical universe ; his own words are, that its purpose is, 'to represent the unity amidst the complexity of nature'. In his field he ranks equally with Goethe in the field of literature.

Ferguson, James, 1710–1766. *Astronomy explained upon Sir Isaac Newton's Principles and made easy to those who have not studied mathematics, to which are added a plain method of finding the distances of all the planets from the sun by the Transit of Venus over the sun's disc in the year 1761, an account of Mr. Horrox's observations of the Transit of Venus in the year 1639 and of the distances of all the planets from the sun as deduced from observations of the Transit in the year 1761*. London, Rivington, [? 1862] [8th ed. 1790, 10th 1799, 11th 1803].

This is the first scientific best-seller. It ran into many editions. It is very interesting because the Transit of Venus is a comparatively rare phenomenon and has occurred only three times since 1761 ; it will not occur again until June, 2004. A Transit of Mercury was visible in South Africa in the late afternoon of November 14th, 1953. Ferguson's book is also interesting because it describes a method of finding the scale of the solar system. Despite its formidable title, it is written for laymen.

Flammarion, Camille, 1848–1925. *Astronomie populaire*. Paris, Maupou and Flammarion, 1890.

This was also a best-seller and sold 50,000 copies. I have a first edition. It is of special interest because 1890 may be taken as the year in which modern astronomy started (Flammarion is of the old school) with the realization of the immense value of the photographic plate for astronomy. At this time, also, Sir David Gill, Astronomer Royal at the Cape, came forward with his important discovery of the possibility of applying photography in astronomy.

The following books on my own hobby, the popularization of Science, are of particular excellence :

POPULAR SCIENCE

- Eddington, Sir Arthur. *The nature of the physical world*. C. U. P., 1928.
 Jeans, Sir James. *The universe around us*, rev. ed. C. U. P., 1944.
 Einstein, Albert. *Sidelights on relativity*. Methuen, 1922.
 Freud, Sigmund. *Psychopathology of everyday life*. Macmillan, 1914.
 Jung, Carl. *Contributions to analytical psychology*. Paul, 1928.
 Thomson, Sir J. *Science old and new*. 4th ed. Melrose, 1946.
 Frisch, K. von. *You and life*. Gifford, 1940.
 Fabre, J. *The life of the fly*, Hodder, 1933.
 Marais, E. *The soul of the white ant*. N. Y., Dodd, 1937, [1st published 1920].
 Maeterlinck, M. *The life of the bee*. N. Y., Dodd, 1936.
 Bell, Eric. *Men of mathematics*, Gollancz, 1937.
 Gamow, G. *Mr. Tompkins in Wonderland*. C. U. P., 1939.

This is the sort of book I would like to see prescribed for Matric sometimes in the place of Dickens and Thackeray. Give Jeans instead of Shakespeare, and, if the worst comes to the worst, the student will learn to dislike Jeans, not Shakespeare!

THE ATOMIC AGE

- Smyth, H. de W. *Atomic energy for military purposes: the official report of the development of the atomic bomb under the auspices of the U.S. Government, 1940-45*. Princeton U. P., August, 1945.
 Bleksley, A. *Die geheim van die atoombom*. Johannesburg, Minerva, September, 1945.
The Atomic age opens, a symposium; science editor. G. Wendt. New York, World publications, November, 1945.
 Hersey, J. *Hiroshima*. New York, Knopf, 1946; Harmondsworth, Penguin, 1946.
 Bradley, D. *No place to hide*. Hodder, 1949.

This is a nice field for a collector; the date of its beginning can be fixed to the minute: 8.15 a.m., Japanese Time, August the 6th, 1945. Smyth's Report was, I presume, commissioned for the occasion, and must have been in the press when the Hiroshima explosion took place. I think my own little book was second in the field, only a month later, and next the symposium. The best-seller in the group is Hersey's book. It was first published in the *New Yorker*, August, 1946, and immediately came out in book form in America and England. The Penguin edition of 250,000 which appeared in November, had to be followed in December by a second edition of 100,000. Bradley is next most popular, and the only book so far on the atomic bomb tests. Apparently security measures have been tightened up. We hope they will be relaxed soon, so that new books may be published.

INTERPLANETARY TRAVEL

- Goddard, R. *A method of reaching extreme altitudes*, Washington, Smithsonian, 1919. (Smiths. misc. coll. 71 : 2, publ. 2540).
 Esnault-Pelterie, R. *L'exploration par fusées de la très haute atmosphère, et la possibilité des voyages interplanétaires*. Paris, Société astronomique de France, 1928. [rare]
 Oberth, H. *Wege zur Raumschiffahrt*. München, Oldenbourg, 1925.

- Hohmann, W. *Die Erreichbarkeit der Himmelskörper; Untersuchungen über das Raumfahrtproblem*. München, Oldenbourg, 1929.
- Ley, Willy. *Rockets and space travel; the future of flight beyond the stratosphere*. rev. enl. ed. Chapman, 1949.
- Burgess, Eric. *Rocket propulsion, with an introduction to the idea of interplanetary travel*. Lyons, 1952.
- Colliers Symposium*, 2nd, with W. von Braun and F. Whipple.

Unfortunately I do not possess Oberth and Hohmann; they are very rare. I like to think that, one day, I shall round off my collection with the book giving the report at first hand, of man's first flight to the moon!

SCIENCE FICTION

(a) HISTORICAL

- Lucian. *Vera historia*. A. D. 160 (Various translations).
- Kepler, J. *Joannis Keppleri . . . Somnium, seu opus posthumum de astronomia lunari . . .* Frankfurt, 1634.
- Godwin, Francis, bp of Hereford. *The man in the moone: or, a discovrse of a voyage thither, by Domingo Golsales*. London, Norton, 1638.
- Cyrano de Bergerac, Savinien. *L'autre-monde, ou, Les états et empires de la lune*. 1649.
- Voltaire, F. *Le micromégas*. London, 1752.
- Locke, R. *A moon hoax, or, a discovery that the moon has a vast population of human beings*. N. Y., Gowans, 1835. [Originally published in the *Sun*, August, 1835 under title *Great astronomical discoveries* purporting to be an account of discoveries by Sir John Herschel at the Cape of Good Hope, and pretending to be a reprint from the Edinburgh Journal of Science, then defunct.]

(b) MODERN

Science fiction is a publishing phenomenon of our time. In many respects it is still immature, particularly in the pulp press, but it is an important development nevertheless. The classic authors, Verne and Rider Haggard, did not really see the potentialities and sociological implications of science fiction. It was H. G. Wells who founded the modern genre, and his novels and short stories are still among the best. Many of his lines of approach are still favourites.

- (i) Time-travel paradoxes, escape by the parallel future theory :
Taine, J. (Eric Bell). *The time stream*. Buffalo Books, 1946.
- (ii) Interplanetary travel, earth-man's conflict with non-earth man and environment :
Clarke, A. *Prelude to space*. Sidgwick, 1953.
Van Vogt, A. *Voyage of the Space Beagle*, Simon, 1950.
- (iii) The future of our own world. There is no limit to the possibilities of the fiction-writer's imagination even when intelligently guided by present trends. The books vary from the outstanding to the ordinary :
Stapleton, O. *Last and first men*. Methuen, 1930.
Orwell, G. (Eric Blair). 1984. Harcourt, 1949.
Palmer and Wylie. *When worlds collide*. Longmans, 1950.
Rose, H. *Night of the world*. Duckworth, 1944.

- (iv) Visitors from other worlds :
Wells, H. G. *War of the worlds*. Harper, 1898.
Wyndham, J. (J. B. Harris). *Day of the Triffids*. Doubleday, 1951.
- (v) Hoaxes, to compare with Locke's *Moon Hoax*:
Velikovsky, I. *Worlds in collision*. Gollancz, 1950.
Scully, F. *Behind the Flying Saucers*. Holt, 1950.
- (vi) The problem of the next mutation in the process of evolution :
Beresford, J. *The Hampdenshire wonder*. Eyre, 1948.
Stapleton, O. *Odd John*. Methuen, 1935.
Van Vogt, A. *Slan*. Arkham, 1946 (showing the struggle of the new mutation to exist in the face of Homo Sapiens' opposition).

Science fiction concerns itself with the future, a world whose political, social and economic life has been shaped by the expansion of scientific knowledge. It is both literature and prophecy. It is, of course, pure escape literature ; the best of the moderns write extremely well and think clearly and constructively ; some of their prophecies are quite sound – one was extremely so : a certain magazine published a story called 'Solution unsatisfactory' in 1940, landing author and editor in grave trouble with the F. B. I., because the story described accurately the development of the cobalt bomb!

The pulp magazines must also be mentioned. They started with Hugo Gernsback's *Amazing stories* in 1926 and J. W. Campbell's *Astounding stories* in 1937, and at present there are at least twelve to fifteen science fiction magazines in Great Britain ; some are good, others poor. They have their own vernacular and traditions ; the front covers must, for instance portray a BEM and a FEM. FEM you know, but it took me some time to discover that a BEM is a Bug-Eyed-Monster!

COMMONWEALTH LIBRARIANSHIP

The Linderman Library of Lehigh University, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, U. S. A., has instituted the plan of employing always one qualified librarian on the staff from the British Commonwealth. Miss Margaret K. Kenelly, a graduate of the Library School of the Public Library of New South Wales, and until her departure for the U. S., Assistant Librarian of the United States Information Service Library, Melbourne, is the first incumbent.

The purpose of the plan is to provide a means for in-service professional experience, and for the interchange of ideas and outlook.

Specific provisions include the following :

1. The applicant shall hold proper certification as to professional qualifications in the country of residence ; and shall be between 25 and 35 years of age ; either male or female.
2. The employee becomes a regular member of the library staff who works under the same conditions of employment, including salary, as American members of similar qualifications.
3. Employment is to endure for one year, renewable for a second year upon the recommenda-

tion of the Librarian of Lehigh University, and with the approval of the U. S. Immigration and Naturalization Service.

4. The employee is to perform his or her work during the first year in the Cataloging Department of the Technical Processes Division. The time during the second year (if any) is to be divided at the ratio of 3 to 1 between the Cataloging Department and Reference, respectively.

It is recognized that, apart from these specific duties, the Commonwealth Librarian should gain by an understanding of the general method of library operation. Therefore, a certain amount of training in both acquisitions work and administration may be expected.

5. The employee will be required to file with the Librarian of Lehigh University, and with his immediate superior in the country of origin (if on leave), a detailed report of each year's work.
6. The applicant must provide his or her transportation to and from Bethlehem, Pennsylvania.

STAATSBIBLIOTEKE ¹

deur S. J. KRITZINGER

Hoofbibliotekaris van die Staatsdiens

NIKS IS VOLMAAK in hierdie ou wêreld nie, veral nie die eerste poging nie. Ek glo ook dat die Staatsdienskommissie self terdeë bewus is van die gebreke. Dit staan egter tot hul krediet dat hulle aangepak en deurgevoer het wat ander voor hulle slegs oor gepraat het! Die biblioteekgroep is die Staatsdienskommissie groot dank verskuldig dat hy die bul by die horings gepak en die grondslag gelê het van 'n biblioteekbeleid wat op die lange duur beslis goeie gevolge sal hê. Toe ek vyf jaar gelede in Europa was, het dit duidelik geword dat bibliotekarisse in die staatsdiens aldaar, veral in Engeland, ons beny dat die staatsdiensbibliotekarisse by ons nie meer los van mekaar staan nie en dat bevorderings op minimum professionele kwalifikasies berus.

Hoewel heelwat van die eerste gebreke sedertdien uit die weg geruim is, is alles nog nie na wens nie. By die dankbaarheid in ons harte bestaan daar nog 'n sekere mate van droefheid. In hierdie verband moet daarop gewys word dat die gradering van 'n paar biblioteke nog te laag is en dat sommige van die bibliotekassistent-graderings veels te laag is in vergelyking met die voorgeskrewe kwalifikasies.

Behalwe onopgeleide personeel en gedurige wisselings is die grootste probleem waarmee die biblioteke te kampe het gebrek aan ruimte. Dat dit doeltreffende beheer en die verskaffing van goeie dienste baie bemoeilik, ly geen twyfel nie.

Dikwels word ook kritiek ingebring teen die groot getal biblioteke. Persoonlik sou ek graag ook minder wou sien, sodat die kragte verenig kon word wat betref gehalte van literatuur en werkkrag. In die praktyk is dit egter besonder moeilik om boekerye te amalgameer of af te skaf, omdat die staatsdepartemente in verskillende geboue oor die hele stad versprei is. In die groter geboue, soos die Uniegebou, bestaan weer die onsekerheid of die departement wat wel nou daar is pal daar

sal bly. As die Uniegebou-biblioteke (daar bestaan net 'n paar) sou verenig en een van die departemente moet later na elders verskuif, sal dit 'n algehele ontwrigting van boeke en registers te weeg bring.

Een Sentrale Staatsdiensboekery is 'n mooi ideaal om na te strewe, maar die 1937 Komitee en die Centlivreskommissie het dit verwerp as onuitvoerbaar. Onder die omstandighede bied beheerde desentralisasie die tweede beste moontlikheid en dit is die basis waarop nou gebou word. Die Hoofbibliotekaris is deur middel van sy besoeke en periodieke verslae besig om daartoe mee te help dat die departementele biblioteke op 'n behoorlike basis sal funksioneer en die beste dienste sal lewer. Die sentrale katalogus van boeke en tydskrifte wat hy saamstel, sal onnodige duplikasie hopelik uitskakel en nadelige gapings help aanvul.

Dis in hierdie artikel nie moontlik en ook nie raadsaam om fynere besonderhede van die verskillende biblioteke te gee nie. Die Sentrale Landboubiblioteek, wat die Transvaalse landboubiblioteek met unifikasie in 1910 geërf het, bly nog steeds wat getal boeke, personeel en dienste betref die belangrikste biblioteek in die staatsdiens. In hierdie verband moet ook die volgende afdelingsbiblioteke genoem word: dié van die afdelings Veeartsenydiens (Onderstepoort), Plantkunde, Skeikunde, Insektekunde, Ekonomie en Markte, en die W. P. Vrugte-navorsingstasie, asook die van die Landbou-streekkantore te Pretoria, Stellenbosch, Pietermaritzburg, Bloemfontein en Middelburg, K.P.

Die Departement van Onderwys, Kuns en Wetenskap se biblioteek is 'n nuwere biblioteek wat al heelwat opgang gemaak het. Dit geld ook vir die Hooggeregshofbiblioteek in Pretoria, die van die Departemente van Buitelandse Sake, Handel en Nywerheid, Arbeid, Gesondheid, Bosbou, Geologiese Opname, Vervoer (waaronder ook die belangrike Weerkunde-biblioteek), Naturellesake, Publieke Werke, Poswese, Volkswelsyn, Verdediging en so meer. Ook bestaan daar in die groter sentra van ons

¹ Vervolg van S. A. B. 21 (4), 113-115, April 1954.

land afdelingsbiblioteke waarsonder die betrokke beamptes wat aan die inrigtings verbonde is, kwalik kan klaarkom.

GRADERING VAN BIBLIOTEK-ASSISTENTE

As mense wat ook uit vlees en bloed saamgestel is, is elkeen sonder twyfel begerig om te weet wat ten minste die salarisse en diensvoorwaardes van biblioteek-assistente is. Hier is dit:

Mans:

- Klas A. £510 × 30 × 750 Intermediêr.
B. £210 × 24-330 × 30-600 Matriek.

Vrouens:

- Klas A. £450 × 30-630 Intermediêr.
B. £306 × 330 × 30-540 Elementêr.
C. £168-186 × 24-330-360. Matriek.

Die skale vir Biblioteek-assistent, Mans is effens hoër as die vir vrouens. Hoewel ek die skone geslag nie kwaad gesind is nie, beskou ek dit as reg. Daar is oor die algemeen 'n geweldige toeloop van die vrouelike geslag na die biblioteekprofessie en alles behoort gedoen te word om ook mans te trek en sodoende groter stabiliteit en permanentheid in die professie binne die Staatsdiens te kry.

Ongelukkig word daar vir mans geen voorsiening gemaak, indien hulle in besit van die Elementêre Sertifikaat is nie. Soos in die geval van die vrouens behoort daar 'n derde skaal te wees, naamlik £306-330 × 30 × 630. Biblioteek-assistente (beide Mans en Vrouens) met die Diploma moet ook erkenning daarvoor ontvang deur twee kerwe op hulle skaal te vorder.

Hierdie skale is – soos begryp kan word – vër van volmaak. Biblioteek-assistente, klas C, wat in besit is van die Elementêre Sertifikaat vorder nie dadelik na klas B nie, maar moet eers 'n sekere kerf van hulle skaal bereik het. Dieselfde geld vir Biblioteek-assistente, klas B wat na klas A wil vorder, maar dit eers kan doen na bereiking van 'n sekere kerf van die klas B skaal. Vir biblioteek-assistente wat studeer en die bewys lewer dat hulle die biblioteekprofessie as hulle roeping gekies het, moet daar nie daardie struikelblokke in die weg wees nie. Geen wonder dat die groter

getalle Biblioteek-assistente, Vrouens, Klas C nie studeer nie. Waarom sal hulle dit doen, terwyl hulle nog met regmatige trots kan verwag dat vriendelike jongkêrels heel spoedig hulle om hul hand sal vra? En sou die hoop verflou, dan nog kan hulle in die klerklike afdeling met redelike geluk verwag dat hulle tenminste net so hoog soos die gewone biblioteek-assistent kan vorder.

Daarom is dit noodsaaklik dat die vooruitsigte aan 'n biblioteekloopbaan so aantreklik gemaak sal word dat hulle dit die moeite werd sal ag om hulle as bibliotekarisse te bekwaam te meer daar dit kan gebeur dat manlief te vroeg wegval en sy dan die „verhoogde” status van broodwinner van die gesin op haar skouers sal moet neem!

Onlangs met die hersiening van salarisskale weens die konsolidering van 'n gedeelte van die lewenskostoelae in basiese besoldiging is heelwat verbeterings aangebring. Hoewel ook dit in 'n onvolmaakte wêreld vër van volmaak is, moet tog met groot dankbaarheid kennis geneem word van die pragtige vordering wat sedert 1947 in die Staatsdiens ingetree het. Die bibliotekarisse word tans as 'n erkende professionele groep beskou en in hoofsaak gelykstaande aan die ander professionele groepe. Daardeur is oneindig baie bereik.

Vir enige persoon – hetsy manlik of vroulik – wat biblioteekwese sy/haar lewensroeping wil maak en bereid is om deur studie hom/haarself daarvoor te bekwaam, bied die Staatsdiens onbeperkte moontlikhede. Vir sodanige persone is dit betreklik maklik om tot £780 te vorder. Daarby kom nog die duurtetoelaag wat aan staatsamptenare betaal word. Dan nog is daar 'n hele paar poste wat na £1020, £1200, £1380 en een wat na £1440 loop.

Behalwe die salarisse vir biblioteek-assistente – wat nog steeds verbeter word – bied die Staatsdiens heelwat voorregte. Ek noem onder andere:

1. Betreklike sekuriteit van werk;
2. Besondere gerieflike werksure;
3. Aangename werksomstandighede;
4. Billike verlofvoorregte (30 – 35 dae);
5. Besonderlike goeie siekteverlof – voorregte (4 maande elke siklus van 3 jaar teen volle betaling – daarna teen ½ vergoeding vir 'n tyd);
6. Jaarlikse spoorwegkonsessie teen 55 persent van die prys van 'n kaartjie.

7. Redelike pensioen-voordele (na 'n paar jaar diens ontvang 'n dame dubbeld terug wat sy inbetaal het op voorwaarde dat sy gaan trou).

Teneinde te voorkom dat daar as gevolg van my artikel, 'n toeloop na die Staatsdiens sal plaasvind, wil ons net daarop wys dat – hoewel ons nie altyd streng daarop staan nie – daar tog sekere standaarde is waarvolgens 'n goeie biblioteek-assistent gemeet word – eienskappe wat so 'n persoon baie goed te pas sal kom. Ek noem net vier van hulle :

1. Besondere sin vir netheid en noukeurigheid ;
2. Weetgierigheid en vooruitstrewendheid.
3. Liefde vir boeke en literatuur en belangstelling in biblioteekwerk ;
4. Vermoë om 'n afdeling van 'n biblioteek te beheer. (Om te kan tik is 'n besondere sterk aanbeveling)

Laat daar dus eers eerlike besinning wees, voordat die stormloop plaasvind!

HUDIGE GRADERING BIBLIOTEEKPERSONEEL IN DIE STAATSDIENS

Met die onlangse hersiening van salarisskale weens die konsolidering van 'n gedeelte van die lewenskostetoelae in basiese besoldiging het die gradering van biblioteekpersoneel in die Staatsdiens soos volg te staan gekom :

BENAMING	SALARIS	MINIMUM VEREISTES
Hoofbibliotekaris	£1440	Diploma van die S.A.B.V. of erkende gelykstaande kwalifikasie.
Biblioteekorganiseerder (Tvl. & K. P.).	£1380	„ „
Biblioteekorganiseerder (O.V.S. & Natal)	£1020 × 60 – 1200	„ „
Bibliotekaris	£780 × 48 – 1020	„ „
Asst.-bibliotekaris	£450 × 30 – 540 × 48 – 780	„ „

L.W. Die salarisse van Biblioteekassistent is sedertdien gewysig en bestaan uit die volgende :

<i>Manlik.</i>	A £510 × 30 – 750	Intermediêre Sertifikaat van die S. A. B. V. of erkende gelykstaande kwalifikasie.
	B £210 × 24 – 330 × 30 – 600	Matrikulasie.
<i>Vroulik.</i>	A £450 × 30 – 630	Intermediêre Sertifikaat van die S. A. B. V. of erkende gelykstaande kwalifikasie en na 4 jaar diens op die skaal £306 – 330 × 30 – 540.
	B £306 – 330 × 30 – 540	Elementêre Sertifikaat van die S. A. B. V. of erkende gelykstaande kwalifikasie en na 5 jaar diens op die skaal £168 – 186 × 24 – 330 – 360.
	C £168 – 186 × 24 – 330 – 360	Matrikulasie.

(Aanvangsalaris £186 as 'n tydelike maatreël).

A LITTLE WORLD OF BOOKS: CAPE TOWN'S LIBRARY QUARTER

by W. E. RANBY¹

THOSE WHO ARE familiar with ageing but progressive cities will have noted how, in the midst of new architectural features and beneath changing skylines, it sometimes happens that a particular neighbourhood keeps its old-world atmosphere, or has perhaps been adapted to the advances of time by happy chance or an architect's respect for his predecessors, and thus, in the midst of new ideas, preserved enough of its original character to modify any regrets of those who have grown old with it.

During my later years it has been my happy fortune to spend a good deal of my time in such a neighbourhood: that pleasant part of Cape Town of which the townward ends of Government Avenue and Queen Victoria Street are the principal thoroughfares and which is roughly bounded on the east by the statue of Queen Victoria and the Houses of Parliament; on the north by St. George's Cathedral; on the south by the statue of Sir George Grey and on the west by the City Club. Sir George Grey's statue is within the railings of the Public Gardens; but it is an essential adornment of the South African Library, and more imaginative foresight would have turned it round to face the portico of the great institution of which he was so distinguished a benefactor. Those to whom the Library is a continual place of resort would then be more familiar with the thoughtful brow and dignified mien of that great man.

Within the general boundaries denoted by the four points above there are housed no fewer than six important collections of books: The Library of Parliament; the Mendelssohn Collection of Africana; the South African Library; the Diocesan Library, and the City Club and Law Libraries. The last named is in the Supreme Court building and the closest possible neighbour of the City Club.

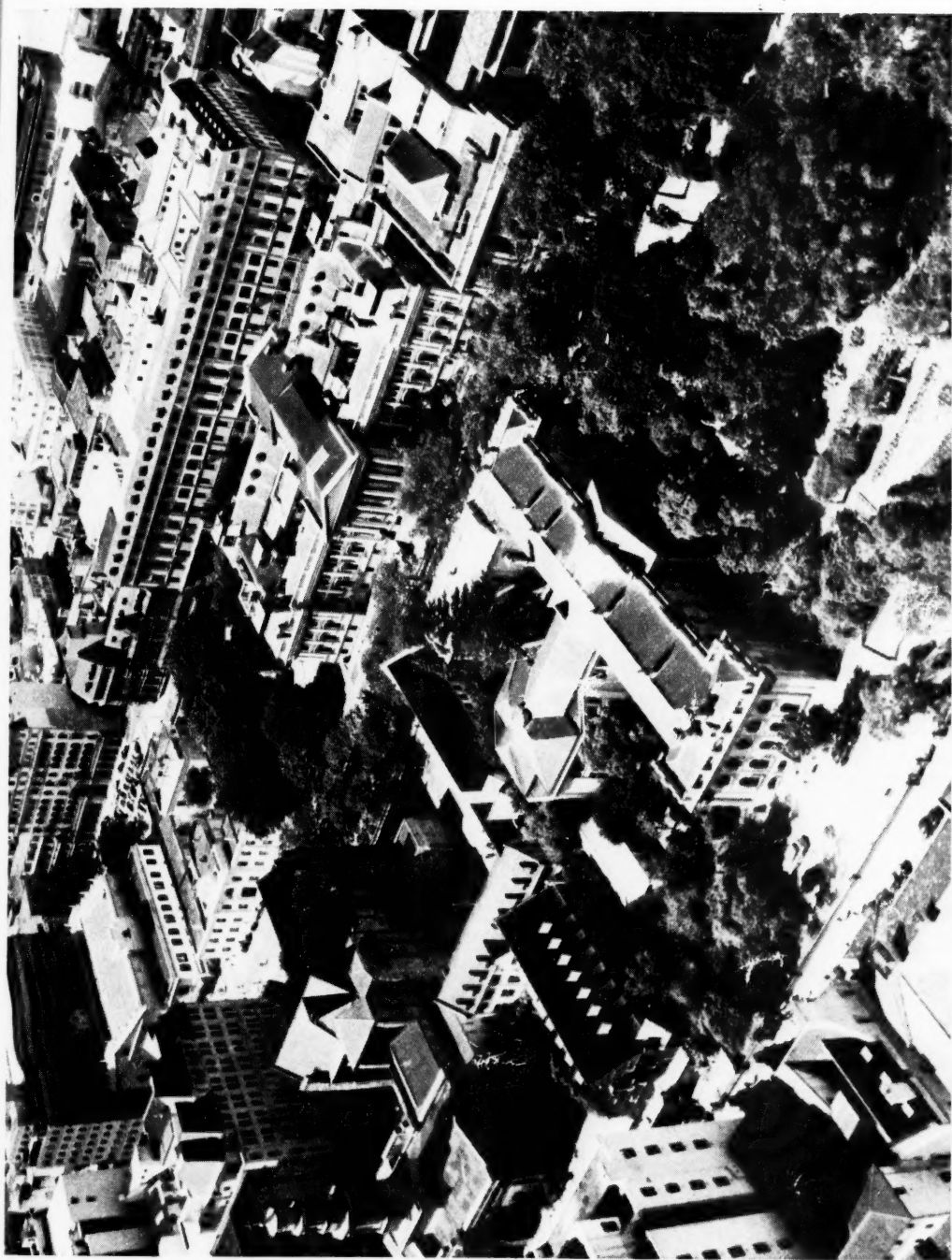
If we remember that the aggregate number of books gathered into these collections greatly exceeds half a million, and that in numerous other parts of Cape Town and its suburbs there are many other lending libraries; that all schools, including St. George's Grammar School which lies within our territory, many churches and many business houses, possess their own libraries and that many private houses have notable collections of books, it will be seen that the reading public have plenty of opportunities to "emancipate themselves from the servitude of crassous ignorance".

The South African Public Library is the father and mother of all South African Libraries and was set up by a Government Proclamation in 1818 which appropriated the proceeds of a tax on wine to serve the financial needs of its formative years.² Mr. Varley has reminded us however that 95 "disobligingly enraged" winefarmers soon got this altered and the Library enthusiasts were correspondingly downcast. But during the seven years when the tax was available they had added to Von Dessin's nucleus a large number of valuable books calculated to promote "the blessing of home education". These early acquisitions included a complete set of the works of "that wicked dog Voltaire", the seventy volumes of which are still to be found in the Library. But the small beginnings, backed by general interest and particular enthusiasms, were sound and strong, and further acquisitions included valuable gifts. The Governor of the Cape, Sir George Grey, gave a large part of his own library which, as it included the first and second folios of Shakespeare and other treasures, immediately gave the institution a position of superiority over all other South African libraries. Further benefactors were Dr. Pappe, "Onze Jan", (the Hon. J. H. Hofmeyr), M. L. Wessels,

vided by a tax on coal. A record of the adaptation of natural products to the support and increase of the liberal arts and sciences would be of great interest.

¹ A chapter from the forthcoming autobiographical work, *My tale of days*, printed here by kind permission of the author.

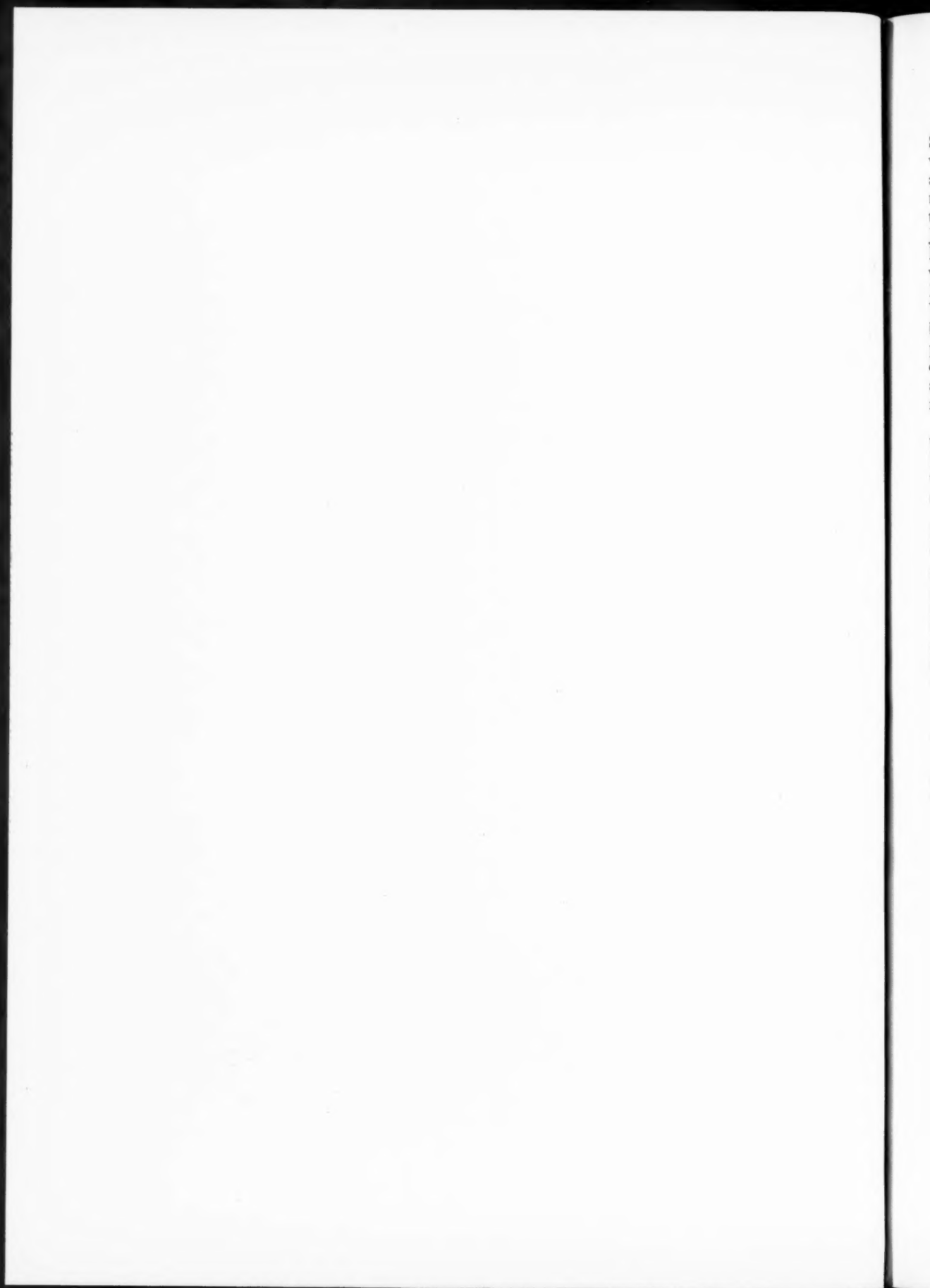
² The money for St. Paul's Cathedral was pro-



Cape Argus

CAPE TOWN'S LIBRARY QUARTER

The South African Library is in the Centre, with the Library of Parliament beyond. Church House Library overlooks the South African Library from dormer windows. The City Club and Supreme Court are in the left foreground. The tower and original section of St. George's Cathedral, shown here, were demolished in 1953.



Sir Abe Bailey, who not only purchased the valuable private library of Mr. C. A. Fairbridge, and presented it to the Public Library with many of his own books, but built a new wing to house them, Sir Thomas Muir, the Rt. Hon. J. X. Merriman, the Rt. Hon. Sir James Rose-Innes and the Hon. W. P. Schreiner; while such well-known names as Molteno, F. F. Churchill, Solomon, Jackson, Alain White, Leipoldt and the donors of the Springbok Collection are honorable reminders of the practical and generous interest through which our leading citizens have helped to develop and establish the Public Library as we know it to-day.

Plans are afoot for the reconstruction of the building so as to relieve the librarian and his assistants from ever-present anxieties about the possibility of fire which increases with the age and decay of the present building.

I cannot remember when I first used the Public Library, but the first Librarian I knew was Mr. A. C. G. Lloyd who retired in 1938 after thirty years' service and with whom I now recall memories of the Suffolk scene in his home at Wynberg. Whenever I go to see his successor, Mr. D. H. Varley, I am reminded of the intimate relations which exist between the arts of war and peace, for on the wall in a frame outside the door of the Chief Librarian's room is a letter dated 12 June 1805 written aboard the *Victory* and signed "Nelson and Bronte". This letter is addressed to "Mr. Bailey, late Surgeon of H. M. Sloop *Raven*" and is about some incident of passing concern in the Naval business of the day. Its special interest to Capetonians lies, first, in its original value as a personal relic of the greatest of Admirals (incidentally its left-handed writing is better than much right-handed penmanship to-day) and, second, in the fact that the Mr. Bailey of the letter lies in his last sleep a stone's throw away in the Church House garden under a memorial which describes him as Samuel Silverthorne Bailey, M.D., Surgeon R. N. and Consulting Physician to the Somerset Hospital of which he was the founder. Dr. Bailey was Surgeon on *H. M. S. Juno* at Trafalgar. He lived to the age of 86 and died in Cape Town on 20 March 1864. Beside him in the brotherhood of death lies Isaac Manuel of Colmar on the Rhine who fought under Napoleon at Austerlitz. Thus does a letter written by the immortal

victor of Trafalgar become a pointer to the grave of a soldier in the ranks of his great opponent, and by its side that of the founder of the Somerset Hospital in Cape Town.

There is of course no end to what may be said about a library and one cannot make even a short reference to the Cape Town institution without a word about some of its unique treasures. Here in the Grey Collection is the oldest written book in South Africa, a copy of the Four Gospels probably written by Northumbrian or French Monks about A.D. 900. Here are the splendid pages of the *Institutes* of Justinian bearing the date 1476; Margaret de Valois' magnificently illuminated Prayer-book (1520) and other similar beauties; Spenser's *Faerie Queene* (1590) bears the modest signature G. Grey; a first edition of Isaac Newton's *Principia* (1686) keeps company with *Paradise Lost* (1669) and the copies of the First and Second Folios of Shakespeare. It is hard to find descriptive words for the pages of the 13th and 14th century copies of the Bible, so exquisite is the writing and so palpable the reverential enthusiasm and hallowed patience which have gone into their making.

A few yards away is the Fairbridge Room whose riches require a book to themselves, but can have here no more than a glance at the shelves just inside the door. Shakespeare, "gratifying the mind with the endless diversity", not merely of his own words, but of those of his innumerable commentators; Andrew Marvell,

*Society is all but rude
To this delicious solitude,*

Thomas Hoccleve and Ralph Holinshed, James Shirley, Alexander Pope, R. B. Sheridan and Shelley; these are some of the great ones whose music and philosophy guard the entrance to a literary temple.

Among the books in the Africana section of the City Club library are the two handsome volumes comprising the original bibliography of the Sidney Mendelssohn Library which was left to the Union Parliament and embraces "the nucleus of a Library of Africana to be held, conserved and augmented by the Union Parliament until eventually it should comprise the greater part of the literature connected with the Continent of Africa". This fine gift was accompanied by two legacies which enable additions to be made. Here are expressed the

actions and intentions of the true book-lover, one who, valuing books himself, desires to extend the pleasures and knowledge recorded in them to others, so that, in his own words "although in time his library may vanish, its real good will live and come forth from the lives and minds of men". The *Bibliography* is the outcome of a resolve by Sidney Mendelssohn to carry out the suggestion made by Sir Perceval Laurence at the first conference of South African Librarians held in 1904 that a well-considered effort be made to produce as nearly as may be an exhaustive catalogue of works relating to South Africa.

Prefacing these two volumes is Mr. Ian Colvin's learned introduction, dated 13 July 1910 and consisting of 72 pages of bibliographical and geographical lore including such events as the tragic end of the "Falstaff of Portugal" and many other dreadful dissolutions, and the blessed death of Father Dom Gonçalo de Silveira, the first Christian martyr of South Africa, who was murdered in 1561, his dead body becoming a shrine guarded by the beasts and "several birds of surpassing beauty".

The books, and not only books but "prints, framed and unframed, paintings and water-colours, prints and caricatures" are housed in the cool and carpeted quiet of the basement of the Houses of Parliament, and there the visitor after signing the book may read a framed extract from the benefactor's will saying that his library or collection of African Works which he has for years past been doing his utmost to make as complete as possible is bequeathed to the King's Most Excellent Majesty in trust for the Parliament of the Union of South Africa.

When we ascend to the ground floor of the pillared front facing Government Avenue we find ourselves in the fine galleried hall of the Library of Parliament; a lofty chamber which not only houses the Parliamentary records and supplies the legislative requirements of the Senators and Members, but collects, under the vigilant eye of Mr. Roos, all new works of general interest and importance and so mitigates as far as may be the rigour of parliamentary duties.

The removal in 1953 of the familiar portico of the old cathedral has exposed a new vista at the top of St. George's Street where there can now be seen the dormer windows of the

Church House. These dormers give light to the Diocesan Library, a fine collection of books mainly consisting of a bequest by Dr. J. F. Littledale in the time of Archbishop West Jones. Various additions and other bequests have been made since; amongst them a notable collection of Greek and Latin classics given by Colonel Lyall. All these were moved here in 1931 from the old Church House at 61 Burg Street after the sale of that property to the Argus Company. While the greater number of the books are on theological subjects there are many of interest to the general reader. Among these are the publications of the Surtees Society, a number of standard French works with Larousse's sixteen-volume dictionary, Marsden's *History of Sumatra* and good, old editions of Dr. Samuel Johnson, Ben Jonson and Machiavelli; Commentaries, Ecclesiastical Histories and Liturgicae abound, and in a glass case with other relics are the Letters Patent granted to Bishop Gray. Here also are the seventeen volumes of the great Oxford English Dictionary. Mr. Wilfrid Murray's *Memoir* of his father, Sir James A. H. Murray, the dictionary maker, reproduces the verses which appeared in the *Pall Mall Gazette* in April 1900 as a greeting to the longest word which had appeared in the Dictionary so far—INCIRCUMSCRIPTIBLENESS. These verses contain the following encomiastic tribute to that phenomenon:

*As we behold you, our awe is renewed in us,
Yes, with emotion our bosoms are stirred:
Septisyllabic, immense, amplitudinous,
Largest, leviathan, limitless word!*

There are two other copies of this acknowledged supreme authority on the English language, in the Public Library and the Library of Parliament. The presence of three complete editions of this great work within the restricted area of this survey is in itself remarkable.

The Supreme Court Library consists of some 3,000 volumes of legal records and authorities for the use of H. M. Judges and Advocates. The leather-bound books in this formidable assembly of equity and law; of rights and wrongs; tragedy and comedy; fact and fiction; truth and falsehood; life and death, make no immediate appeal to the eye; but Balzac and Dickens and Trollope have shown us what learned entertainment Judge

and Barrister and Attorney, Prosecutor and Defendant and Witness, Pursuer and Pursued, provide in unending sequence and variety. Within these hard-featured covers are the problems of yesterday resolved into precedents for the solution of the legal tangles and troubles of tomorrow.

The Early-Victorian room which contains the library at the City Club is one of the pleasantest places in Cape Town. It has all the essentials; books, comfort, light and accessibility; for it is on the ground floor and its wide windows, looking out over Queen Victoria Street, provide relief from the printed word in a view of the garden and façade of the Church House and the ancient trees and side-entrance to the Public Library with a glimpse of the Public Gardens.

The books which line two and a half sides of this quiet room are a good general assortment of works fairly divided between the usual subjects, among which there are some excellent biographies and an increasing number of Africana. The custom has been to purchase newly published books of recognized quality and from time to time to make careful clearances of redundant mediocrities and such works as have been superseded by those more up-to-date.

Among the special features are the Gillray Cartoons which are to be found in two large folios on the top of a revolving book-case. Gillray was one of the fathers of the modern cartoon¹ to whose work David Low draws attention in *British Cartoonists* (William Collins). Of these two folios the thicker and heavier one

¹ Rowlandson was another and both owed much to Hogarth's pioneering in the art.

contains what are known as the respectable prints and the thinner and lighter one those which are unrespectable. The thin volume shows much more evidence of wear and tear than its more bulky companion, possibly because it is easier to handle!

Gillray was a fine draughtsman and an unswerving loyalist, who found in Napoleon and his followers congenial subjects for satirical description illustrating "much of that returning spirit of loyalty which ultimately preserved England from invasion". It is unfortunate that his ribald indecencies must frighten many people away, but he was the product of his times and the picture of the "state epicures", William Pitt and Napoleon, carving up the Globe between them in the shape of a plum-pudding in the year of Trafalgar, is one of the good things in the thicker book.

In addition to these excitements there is a complete set of the Van Riebeeck Society publications in the Africana corner. This corner abounds in such respected names (amongst many others) as Lady Anne Barnard and Mrs. Trotter; Cory and Theal; Marloth and Starck and Slater; Graham Botha, Dorothe Fairbridge and Laidler.

Here then in this quiet Victorian-Georgian neighbourhood, where the City Club is now my most familiar resort, and from whose windows I look out on the scene of the most anxious and enduring part of my life's work, is a little world of books; a place where there live and move and have their being multitudes of the written word; History, Philosophy and Romance embalmed in the prose and poetry of all ages and countries and people.

H. W. WILSON: BIBLIOGRAPHER

In common with many contemporaries we record with regret the death of Halsey W. Wilson, founder of the H. W. Wilson Company of New York, at the age of 85. In building up the publishing firm that bears his name, Mr. Wilson devised bibliographical tools that have become a household name in libraries throughout the modern world. Each one of them was an outgrowth of a definite library need, and the result of consultation and co-operation between individual librarians and the publisher. Among the special contributions made by Mr.

Wilson to the publishing field were the plan he originated for saving and interfilming type for the "cumulative" indexes associated with his name, and the "service basis" method of charging, which not only made possible the publication of hundreds of reference volumes, but made it financially possible for libraries on six continents to own them. In a long and useful life, H. W. Wilson not only left the profession greatly in his debt, but also built up a remarkable business on a basis of co-operation and open-minded experimentation.

SOME THOUGHTS ON NON-EUROPEAN LIBRARY SERVICE IN TRANSVAAL

by HELEN BARKER

Hon. Secretary, Transvaal Non-European Library Service

I DO NOT propose to attempt here a detailed picture of the administration of our Service. This type of information is readily available elsewhere, and our reports can easily be amplified for the benefit of anybody who may be interested in greater detail. In such a short article it is not possible to do more than touch on one or two aspects of this work.

Our Service was started in 1931, when the Carnegie Corporation of New York made £1,000 available for the purchase of books for the Non-Europeans of the Transvaal, provided that local authorities would accept the responsibility of maintaining the library, and defraying the cost of book distribution. This initial grant was naturally exhausted many years ago, and the Committee has continued to function mainly on a Provincial grant, supplemented by small annual grants from a few municipalities. The task of converting local authorities to a sense of their obligations in this respect has been a long and arduous one. In fact, the Committee, like the original grant, was exhausted many years ago. Having the human capacity of recuperation, however, it has continued its activities, though it has unfortunately not been able to expand the Service as much as it would wish to do. Where local authorities appreciate the social and educational value of library services for their Non-European communities, a very great deal can be achieved. But the actual number of municipalities, who are awake to this need is surprisingly small.

The Transvaal Non-European Library Service, like other pioneer efforts in South African librarianship, had its origin in Germiston. The headquarters library was transferred to Pretoria in 1946, where the library and its functions merged into a very close form of co-operation with the Native Teachers' Library of the Transvaal Education Department.

This joint service is supervised by a part-time European organizer, and staffed by six matriculated African assistants. In return for the very material assistance provided by the Transvaal Education Department, such as accommodation, shelving, etc., the library organizer and members of the Committee of the Non-European Library Service assist in training the clerks employed by the Department in the necessary administrative work, and in preparing for the professional examinations of the S. A. Library Association.

The joint activities of the Native Teachers' Library and the Non-European Library Service provide two forms of service: a students' service, and a depots service.

African students cannot, in most cases, afford to buy all the books prescribed for their studies. The library purchases these as widely as funds permit, together with other non-fiction books of interest both to students and teachers, and to the serious general reader. Members number over 1200 in this section, and the average monthly issue is about 400 books. Members are mainly resident in the Transvaal, but are accepted from the other provinces and from other Southern African territories as well. Books are of course loaned free of charge.

The depots service is a travelling library. Books are railed in boxes to centres, each of which has its librarian, usually voluntary. All costs are naturally borne by the Service. Boxes are exchanged at intervals, and periodical reports are asked for. Centres include schools, mission stations, mine compounds, and social clubs. As many municipal location libraries have only limited collections of books, their stocks are in some cases supplemented by the Service, boxes being loaned on the same terms as to other centres. At present about 60 centres are being supplied. Total membership at

these centres cannot be assessed, as reports are the exception rather than the rule. (I should perhaps explain that the relatively small number of centres reflects the limited resources of the Service rather than the number of groups who would like, or who need, some form of service.)

I should like now to formulate some ideas based on our experience in this field. My remarks throughout will be based on the special needs, characteristics and problems of Africans rather than those of the whole Non-European group. Asiatics and coloured people are not only a minority in this group, particularly in the Transvaal, but they are also somewhat closer to European standards in education, outlook and general ability to make use of a library service.

Certain principles common to all librarianship naturally apply in this context, but the supervision and administration of any library service for Africans present some special difficulties which may need stressing.

The first factor to be considered must naturally be the librarian. Here we are at once faced with that ever-recurring feature in the South African scene – duality. Experience shows that some form of active European supervision is essential to the efficiency of such services. This is in the first place due to the fact that there are no fully-trained Africans available as yet, and in the second place to the lack of opportunity for gaining administrative experience in any field. I do not believe it is a matter of any inherent racial inadequacy. At present, however, the position must be accepted and European supervision must be provided.

To staff the African library with European librarians or assistants, however, would be completely false to the accepted principle of librarianship, which demands that the librarian who comes in personal contact with his readers must be truly capable of understanding and sympathising with their needs and difficulties, and of guiding them in any special problems they may have in choosing books. Apart from the language difficulty – which is considerable – these people are too diffident or too inarticulate to approach a librarian of a different race with needs they scarcely know how to formulate.

What is essential then is some form of dual control, with a European librarian in the back-

ground, to supervise, advise, and instruct the African who serves as the link between the readers and the books.

It is common practice in many libraries to separate the staff into professional and clerical categories. The policy of confining any library assistant to clerical routines only, take on a special significance in the consideration of the African library. It is sometimes thought that to instruct the African library assistant in the routine techniques of keeping records, issuing books, etc., is sufficient. I do not share this belief. To keep the African assistant on the clerical level means that there is no real librarianship to link readers and books. The clerk will not of himself develop any professional interest or initiative. If he is instructed in clerical routines only, the whole of his job will be a routine matter to him, and the living personal side of assistance to readers will simply not exist in his library. This is particularly important when one realises how relatively few Africans have as yet developed the reading habit as we know it. Reading as a form of relaxation is completely unknown to most of them, and they have yet to discover that books can be the means of indirect education – the acquiring of general knowledge and culture – as contrasted with direct study for a specific end. To encourage them to read less seriously may seem a peculiar aim, but I am convinced that this is the way to encourage the habit of reading for its own sake. Apart from this need for breaking down the “undesirably high” standards of many African readers, there are the ordinary requirements of guiding any reader through a classified collection, helping him to choose between books of varying standards on the same subject, showing him how to use the catalogue, and so forth. No clerk can do all this, nor can a European establish the atmosphere of ease and complete confidence that is so essential.

In 1952, the Committee of the Non-European Library Service started correspondence courses for the Preliminary Certificate of the S. A. Library Association. (As members of our Association have been known, to the embarrassment of my Committee, to deny the existence of the Preliminary Certificate, it may not be out of place here to explain that it was introduced by the Association for the benefit of non-matriculated Non-Europeans, as an introduction to the Elementary Certificate. On

passing the Preliminary Certificate the student, providing he has had 2 years' library experience, is permitted to proceed to the Elementary Certificate.) The material covered by the syllabus is, of course, rudimentary, but it does cover the first essentials of practical librarianship, and in some subjects is not far less in scope than the syllabus for the Elementary. The response to these correspondence courses has been one of keen interest. It is naturally too early as yet to assess the value of these courses in terms of statistics, but we are continuing the work in the firm belief that it is both necessary and useful.

It has also been found, during personal visits to centres, that the African library assistant is anxious for instruction in the routines of the work, makes good use of the professional advice given, and is eager for instruction beyond the mere daily routines. The Committee of the Non-European Library Service is so firmly convinced of this need that it is undertaking the publication of a small handbook, based on the instruction given for the Preliminary Certificate courses in Library Administration and Cataloguing and Classification. This little book is being designed to be of use not to Africans only, but to all library workers who may feel the need of an introduction to studies for the Elementary Certificate. The person who finds himself in sole charge of a small library with no senior librarian to turn to for immediate guidance – a library, moreover, which is not as yet organized on orthodox and intelligible lines – may find studies for the Elementary Certificate somewhat difficult of comprehension, and the techniques discussed rather difficult of application. I shall be glad of any comments or suggestions which may assist in making this handbook as suitable to this purpose as possible.

One further responsibility of the librarian which might well be mentioned here is the question of publicity. The usual techniques require thinking out afresh in this context. It must be realised that to the average African a library service is something completely unknown. He needs to be informed of what a library is, how it can serve him, how it should be used – in fact, if publicity is planned on the same lines as it is for a children's library, it will be more successful than the methods usually adopted in connection with an adult service. Story hours, for example, would be

of even greater benefit to an African community – bearing in mind the large proportion of illiterates and semi-literates – than they are to a group of school-going children.

Not only is it necessary to attract the people to the library in the first place, but it is also necessary to attract the readers from the door to the shelves, both personally and by means of adequate displays and guides. Publicity for African libraries, in other words, must cater for certain special aspects – the ignorance of all but a very few of even those who read easily, the difficulties of new-literates in finding an outlet for their newly-acquired ability merely to read, and the mental frustration which they have come to the library to escape from, and to which they may so easily be driven back if their welcome is inadequate or uninformed. It is also important to realise that library services for Africans are not only an urban question. The special problems suggested apply naturally both in urban and rural communities, but because they loom less large in an urban community, and because the first people attracted to the library are, of course, those who can already read, it is an error to lose sight of the much larger numbers for whom the African library, by means of intelligent planning and thoughtful personal service, may become a means to true knowledge rather than mere semi-literacy.

The selection of books for the African library presents a few factors for special consideration. Existing stocks are in many cases extremely unsatisfactory. The shelves are sometimes clogged with quantities of unbelievably useless books. There are, unfortunately, many people who think that any book is better than no book, or that anything is good enough for Africans. Both these views are utterly erroneous. It is far more necessary in the case of unpractised readers, semi-literates or new-literates, to see that what is provided looks attractive and is exactly adapted to special needs and reading abilities.

The word "selection" is actually rather out of place as far as new-literates are concerned. The bald fact is that the books designed for this group can at present be counted on the fingers of one hand. What is needed is a carefully planned set of books based on limited vocabularies, containing matter of genuine interest not only to Africans, but to African adults. What is available, broadly speaking,

is the ordinary type of junior-school reading book, based on limited vocabularies, it is true, but containing matter of interest to children. The S. A. Institute of Race Relations has this particular problem in hand, in connection with its adult literacy work, and a steadily growing number of scientifically prepared reading books will shortly be available. Some of our depots are in mine compounds, where the only readers are the handful of clerks employed. Classes in literacy are being conducted, and we have been asked to send books which will enable these new-literates to progress beyond the stage of mere literacy to the reading stage. This is a demand which we are naturally very anxious to supply, as the steady growth in numbers of the reading group is obviously desirable, but all we can send these people, at present, is simple school reading books. The range of titles, particularly in the vernaculars, is, moreover, extremely limited.

New-literates naturally present a special problem. Readers, on the other hand, with a few minor reservations, read what we do. The tendency, as I indicated earlier, may be in favour of reading for study purposes rather than towards reading to pick up further information about some subject that interests them, or reading simply because they enjoy it; but broadly speaking, their tastes do not differ radically from ours.

The non-fiction stock should always include as many prescribed textbooks as the library can possibly afford to buy for lending purposes. The African student cannot afford to buy his own books, and by attracting him to the library by this means, he may be retained as a regular reader after his studies are completed. Selection presents no problems here. Other non-fiction books popular with Africans include books of topical interest such as are eagerly read in any library, and books of racial interest, such as the achievements and progress of American Negroes, or of the people of Nigeria. The fortunes of the new Federation will be watched with very keen interest. Books on travel, and on athletics and sports are usually much in demand. Psychology has a strong appeal for the educated African.

There are more differences in the selection of fiction for Africans. On the whole, these readers appear to prefer books with at least a factual background, to completely imaginative or fanciful books. Stories of adventure, fast

action, travel, etc., are always popular. *Bulldog Drummond*, the *Scarlet Pimpernel*, and the *Saint* are firm favourites.

There are some classes of novel which have no appeal at all. A completely foreign background, either of period or of country, must be made interesting by reason of really gripping adventure or by means of readily-understood historical fact. The *Scarlet Pimpernel* books are a case in point. Here the personal adventure is everything. A period novel by Georgette Heyer, on the other hand, is not always a safe choice. It reflects a picture of a way of life in a foreign country and at a distant period of time. The action and the historical background are too slight or too remote to link the reader to the story so as to make the reading of it a real personal experience. For the same reasons, roughly speaking, stories of the sea, in the Transvaal at least, have little attraction.

The classics, on the other hand, are frequently popular, and not only for study purposes. The Longmans series of abridged classics, designed as supplementary reading books, is excellent for African libraries. The real value of their contents is felt, and their physical form is not intimidating. Authors range from Jane Austen, Dickens and Stevenson to Haggard, Jules Verne and Conan Doyle. Most of them tell a good story, and I think that is the secret of their success with all ages. The African appreciates a good story, simply and directly told. One has to remember that in reading any language other than the home language, any subtlety, specially that of humour, is likely to be incomprehensible.

A small group of better-educated Africans is very appreciative of the "psychological" type of novel. The sense of being at the mercy of destiny so sensitively drawn by Dostoevsky and others, and the frustrations of Jude the Obscure make a strong appeal to the more reflective type of African reader, by illuminating his own aspirations and frustrations.

Another group which may be specially mentioned includes parsons, church workers, social workers and other people of sincere piety. With these the novels of Lloyd Douglas and Sholem Asch, and other books with a religious or semi-religious tone or background, are extremely popular.

The African reader as distinct from the student is repelled by a large heavy book of small print. This applies particularly, of course,

to the children. This is one of the reasons why the old-fashioned novels mentioned earlier, and the Henties and Talbot Baines Reeds, are of no use whatsoever in the African library.

In selecting children's books, it must always be remembered that a foreign background must be compensated for in some way. Beatrix Potter and the *Wind in the Willows* will be read, where *Rambles through the English countryside* will not. The Golden Books are usually very popular, and animal stories are usually a safe choice. Format must not be intimidating, and pictures are even more welcome to these children than they are to little Europeans. African homes, and often their schools too, can do little or nothing to satisfy the craving for colour natural to childhood. The school stories for boys and girls so unfailingly popular with European children, are useless. Midnight feasts and pranks in the South Dorm leave the African child completely cold.

A very serious difficulty in African library services is the provision of anything like adequate premises. Many of our centres are merely our book-box set up in a school room after school hours. Even in quite adequate social clubs, the library room is very small. The very first essential is the provision of reading accommodation. Home conditions in most locations make quiet reading or study virtually impossible, noise and overcrowding are the general rule, and the only light at night may be candles. A good-sized reading room, with tables and chairs, newspapers, magazines and other reading material, and adequate light in the evenings will always be well used and gratefully appreciated.

We all accept the fact that libraries are an essential in any civilized community, but too many authorities do not yet recognize this

fact in connection with our Non-European population. It may be argued that most African communities are only semi-civilized at best, but then surely the civilizing functions of the library are all the more urgently needed.

We all know, too, how many employing bodies have yet to recognize the fact that librarianship is a profession, and one of great value to any community. If local authorities are indifferent to library requirements for their European communities, how much more blind are they likely to be to such requirements for their Non-European Communities and particularly the need for their African library workers becoming professionally trained to a sufficient degree to make the service provided a live one rather than one which is merely dormant if not moribund.

In striving for adequate provision for Non-Europeans, the lead must come from the European librarians. Where the local European librarian is sympathetic and ready to advise and stimulate, the location library can become a true library. In other cases, the apathy or ignorance of the officials responsible can kill the library stone dead. A detailed comparison of the Sharpeville Library at Vereeniging¹ which I quote because I know it best, with other municipal location libraries, which I will refrain from naming, would prove this point beyond any question.

It should not be necessary to stress the incalculable social and educational value of libraries in any community, and we are all only too well aware of the great social evils and educational shortcomings that still urgently require correction in our South African locations.

¹ Visser, Mrs. T., Non-European library service at Vereeniging (*S. A. L.*, 21 (4), 107-09, April 1954).

LIBRARY NEWS

The appointment of Miss Elizabeth Hartmann, B.A., F.L.A., to the post of Librarian of the University of the Witwatersrand in succession to Mr. P. Freer, has recently been announced. Miss Hartmann, who is well-known to readers of this journal, of which she was for many years Assistant Editor, and later Hon. Editor, thus becomes the first woman to occupy the post of University Librarian in South Africa. For many years Deputy to

Mr. Freer, Miss Hartmann has shown particular keenness on the educational work of our Association, being at present Hon. Secretary of the Education Committee; she was part-compiler of the Association's *Handbook*; and her work in connection with the systematization of Afrikaans bibliography is well known. On behalf of our colleagues we wish Miss Hartmann every success in her new appointment.

ROY CAMPBELL EXHIBITION

by C. J. EYRE

City Librarian, Durban

DURING MARCH 1954, the Durban Public Library, in collaboration with the University of Natal, exhibited in the Lending Department (Biography and Foreign Languages Room), a collection of scarce MSS., photographs and newspaper cuttings, of, and relating to, Roy Campbell, Durban-born poet of international reputation.

When the news reached us that our famous visitor would arrive in Durban on some indefinite day in March, every endeavour was made to trace the whereabouts of the poet to enable the occasion to be marked by an exhibition of manuscripts of his works (if available), autographed copies of his published works, photographs or other illustrated material which might create added interest in the exhibition.

The fact that some valuable manuscript material of his work was in the possession of a number of libraries in South Africa was conveyed to us only a short while before Roy Campbell was due to arrive in South Africa, and on learning that these might be obtained for exhibition purposes, no time was lost in contacting Rhodes University Library, the South African Public Library, and the Johannesburg Public Library, requesting their co-operation for loan of material in their possession.

The response of the above institutions to our appeal was immediate, and with the knowledge that certain manuscripts would be sent us, the staging of the exhibition was approached with increased confidence.

Shortly after the above news reached us, Mrs. S. G. Campbell (mother of the famous poet), Miss Killie Campbell and Dr. George Campbell, offered the loan of a number of rare unpublished items composed during the school days of the poet. These were supported by interesting photographic material, letters written to relatives during 30 years' absence from South Africa, and numerous press reviews and criticisms of his work appearing in the leading newspapers of the world. Mr.

Cecil ("Bill") Payn, personal friend of Roy Campbell, contributed by the loan of private letters and Durban High School periodicals containing excerpts from letters and reviews.

While the exhibition consisted mainly of printed works, photographic material, and private letters written to relatives and friends, the manuscripts proved to be of the greatest interest to the public.

Much care and attention were paid to the setting of the interior of the showcases, and the layout of the whole display was admirable. Roy Campbell, on whom the honorary degree of Doctor of Literature had been conferred by the University of Natal was most impressed during his first visit to the exhibition with the number of items displayed, and paid high tribute to the ladies responsible for the arrangement of the various exhibits.

The central group of cases were set aside to house the following manuscripts kindly lent by the courtesy of:

1. The Trustees of the S. A. Public Library, Cape Town.
 - (a) *The Flaming Terrapin*. Manuscript of the first two parts (and draft of part of the third). 26 leaves.
 - (b) *The Waysgoose* [sic]. Typescript (carbon) copy, with corrections and emendations. 26 leaves.
 - (c) *Mithraic Emblems*. Manuscript written on squared paper, with the author's own sketch for a cover-title. Cover-title plus seven leaves.
 - (d) *Tristan da Cunha*. Manuscript of poem written in 1926 and first published in the *Waste Paper Basket* of the Owl Club (Cape Town), 1926.
 - (e) *The Waste Paper Basket of the Owl Club* 1926. Copy of the issue containing *Tristan da Cunha*.
2. Rhodes University Library, Grahamstown
Flowering Rifle.

3. The Campbell family. (Mrs. S. G. Campbell; Miss Killie Campbell; Dr. George Campbell). Unpublished manuscripts, books, photographs, criticisms, letters, etc.
4. Mr. Cecil Payn. Private letters and Durban High School periodicals containing reviews and criticisms by a scholar of Campbell's *Autobiography*. Campbell's reply to the criticism was also on view.
5. Johannesburg Public Library.
Manuscript - *The Theology of Bongwi*.
6. The Natal Daily News. Photograph of Roy Campbell, Uys Krige, Alan Paton and Laurens v. d. Post, taken at a reunion in London.

While there was an excellent selection of pictorial exhibits on display, the most out-

standing of them all was the colourful and artistically executed poster with Roy Campbell as the central figure as a Matador, surrounded by a series of clever and amusing thumbnail sketches depicting a few of the many and varied pursuits undertaken by him during his travels in Africa, Europe and the United States of America. The poster was designed and executed by students of the School of Arts and Crafts, Natal Technical College, through the courtesy of the Principal, Mr. How.

We are grateful to the Press, who generously gave us publicity before and during the visit of our distinguished visitor.

The interest shown by the public generally was a most encouraging feature of our venture, and the ready co-operation of our visitor to give a number of talks on several of his works and personal experiences overseas contributed largely to the success of the exhibition.

Aandag

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